



Hamlet on the hill?
(See page 23)

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2013

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£800,000 council grant will help people 'downsize'

THE Welsh Government has given the county borough council more than £800,000 - to build 10 new homes so that people affected by the 'bedroom tax' can downsize.

Each local authority in Wales is getting a grant, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been asked to work with Registered Social Landlords to put together a proposal.

The UK Government, of course, objects to

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

term 'bedroom tax' and has pointed out that it a cut in benefit that comes into play if a house is deemed to be under-occupied.

The grant, totalling £829,760, was announced by the Housing Minister, Carl Sargeant.

He said: "The Welsh Government is hugely concerned that many already hard pressed households are facing hardship due the changes in welfare benefit rules".

Local authorities have reported that over 35,000

households in Wales are affected by the 'bedroom tax'.

Mr Sargeant continued: "Since the rules relating to housing benefit and size of household changed on April 1, we have seen increased demand for smaller, one and two bedroom properties.

"Despite the tough financial climate, the Welsh Government has invested £20 million in the Smaller Properties Programme and has asked all local authorities to

identify schemes which could benefit from the funding".

Coun Phil White, the BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "Anything which helps our social housing programme and supports citizens who have been adversely affected by the bedroom tax is to be welcomed.

"We will use this funding to work with our registered social landlords to help meet the demand for smaller properties locally and mitigate the effect of the UK Government's damaging welfare reform programme".

REUNION FOR SHOW VETERANS



ABOVE: These ladies (and gentlemen) used to tread the boards in a good cause, and recently they held a special reunion. (See page 3 for details).
(PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN).

Town assault: MAN SOUGHT

POLICE in Porthcawl are investigating after a 65-year-old man was assaulted while getting into a taxi near the Sandpiper Bar in the town, at around 12.15am on Sunday, June 23.

He had spent the evening in Porthcawl

with his family and friends before returning to his caravan, and police are appealing to the public for their assistance in identifying a man they wish to speak to.

He wore a pink t-shirt with a distinctive pattern on the front, blue shorts and blue summer

weight canvas shoes. He was also seen wearing a light blue hooded top over his tee-shirt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, on 0800 555111 (reference 62130188142).

SARN MAN IS JAILED FOR BREAKING FRIEND'S LEG

AFTER taking a cocktail of drugs, a Sarn man carried out an unprovoked attack on a close friend.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Ian Parker fell awkwardly to the ground in a car park in Sarn and suffered a broken leg in the process.

Liam Galbraith, 27, of Gas Works Terrace, Sarn, was jailed for 14 months, after pleading guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm, and the court heard that Mr Parker had to take six weeks off work and miss a family holiday.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said he felt depressed and was disgusted by what Galbraith did.

Mr Trigg said that the injured man had been to a barbecue with friends and was walking home at about 10pm on April 30.

He received a telephone call from his sister, saying three people, including Galbraith, had called on her and asked for a spoon.

"It seemed bizarre and could have been connect-

ed with drugs," said Mr Trigg. Soon after, Galbraith spotted Mr Parker and attacked him.

"He rushed at him with a clenched right fist" said Mr Trigg.

As he fell to the ground he twisted and injured his leg. The defendant was seen kicking him while he was on the ground.

Mr Parker limped home, not realising how seriously injured he was.

The following day an x-ray revealed he had a broken left leg and damaged ligaments.

Later, Galbraith admitted drinking alcohol and taking heroin, valium and cannabis, and could not remember what he had done.

He was said to have convictions for theft, burglary, and handling stolen goods.

His barrister, Mike Hammett, said: "He is full of genuine remorse. The offence was out of character.

"Until he ceases his drug addiction, he will continue to offend."

He said that, when on remand, he had taken an overdose of drugs and had been in hospital for

two days. "He is determined to change his ways," Mr Hammett added.

Judge Tom Crowther QC told Galbraith "You

assaulted a man you had known for years and badly injured him."

Mr Parker, he said, had offered no challenge whatsoever.

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

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Bridgend Adoption Centre Open Day

On Saturday 17 August from 10.30am to 4pm Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding an Open Day!

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New garden on the way for young Brackla designers

PUPILS at Brackla Primary School have won a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) competition to create a new wildlife garden at their school.

They impressed a panel of judges with their well thought-out design that featured a range of habitats for wildlife to flourish, and the children were also commended for their plans to use recycled materials where possible, and create a place that the wider local community could visit to enjoy nature.

The competition was organised by BCBC's countryside and sustainable development teams and, thanks to support

from Natural Resources Wales and BCBC's rural development programme 'Reach', Brackla Primary School will now be given resources to help bring their winning design to life.

They picked pupils from Brynmynyn Primary School in the competition's final, which was held at the Kenfig National Nature Reserve. As the standard of the Brynmynyn entry was also high, help will be given to turn some elements of their design into reality too.

Both finalists were treated to an explorer's walk at the nature reserve and a pond dipping session, and the schools were also given bat boxes and a bird box to give their wildlife gardens a kick start.

Lesley Thomas, Brackla Primary School's eco co-ordinator, said: "Our outside areas are a very important part of the school and our eco committee, green fingers gardening club, and groups of older children have all helped with conservation work in the school. However, the whole area needed re-designing, so this competition came at just the right time."

The children's winning ideas included creating willow structures, a forest schools area with log seating, bird nesting boxes with cameras linked to the ICT suite, bird hides, wild flower beds, fruit bushes, herb tyres, information boards, a hedgehog habitat and most importantly a pond to help with science studies.

Lesley added: "We were absolutely delighted to win the competition and although the children who came up with the design will be starting secondary

school in September, they are all looking forward to a return visit to see their ideas come to fruition."

Ecologists from the council will be visiting the school to help them with many of the features, and work will take place in the autumn, outside of the bird nesting season.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This competition has been really thought-provoking for the children and made them consider the positive impact that a garden can have on the natural environment by attracting insects and wildlife."

"Researching this information would have been a really interesting experience and they have also learned about the plants that grow locally, and how important it is to give wildlife the opportunity to feed at different times of the year."

Circle winners announced in play-writing competition

THE result of the George Perry Playwright Competition was announced recently at the Bridgend Writers' Circle.

The judge, Jean Castle, said all the entries were of a very high standard and was pleased to award the George Perry Trophy to Jan Davies with her winning title 'Money Talks'. The runner-up was Alex Marshall with

'Surprise, Surprise and a Haircut' and in third place was 'The Tower Room' by Wendy Nottingham.

The next Writers' Circle meeting is on Friday, August 10, 7.15pm to 9.15pm, at the Bryntrion and Laleston Community Hall, and will be an activity on 'flash writing' by Mike Ross. For further details contact secretary Kay Boswell on 01656 772738. AS

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, July 31: first Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottag, second Ray Smith and John Evans, third Bill Turner and Marjorie Morris.

Friday, August 2: first Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner, second Dave Reed and Jim Hume, third John Whateley and Irene Thomas.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, August 1, were Sue Hunt and Stuart Davies.

In addition to the reg-

ular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are 'gentle' bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

In the autumn, lessons for beginners will resume; to register an interest, contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call. DN

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Health money for Wales withheld by Westminster

WE have seen a great number of newspaper articles and television programmes in recent weeks, referring to the finances of the Welsh Health Service and blaming the Welsh Government.

What all these articles have failed to mention is that in 2010, with all the excitement of the election, the Assembly health

department did not remind the Westminster Government that there was money due to Wales.

When the Minister asked George Osborne for the £358 million owing to them for the year ending April 2010, he refused to give it to her.

That is the reason our Health Service in Wales has had to cut back on the health budget.

These payments should be automatically paid to us.

A health Minister should not have to go 'cap in hand' to

Westminster. We in Wales pay income tax, national insurance and VAT, just as people in the rest of the UK do.

We should be treated in the same way as Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, and be paid automatically when money is owed to us.

Then the Conservative AMs would not have a leg to stand on when they criticise the Labour-run Health Service, as they frequently do.

G Roberts, Cardiff

Threat to rare species

WITH regard to the proposal for the erection of a 77m wind turbine at Hill House Farm in St Mary Hill, I would just like to point out that in 2008 the council declared that Llangan was a conservation area – and, in particular, St Mary Hill.

The proposed location of this huge wind turbine, along with access track and infrastructure, is a nesting ground for many species – including the skylark – and would cause damage and habitat loss for a species in decline.

This whole lovely area is also fortunate enough to have many other (declining) soaring birds, such as the peregrine falcon, kite and kestrel, and according to the RSPB, there is a risk of collision (visit RSPB.org.uk – protecting wildlife sites).

Tree plan threat to our wildlife

I WAS pleased to see Coun Curtis' recent letter (to The GEM) regarding the threat to our wildlife.

This is a subject close to my heart; therefore, what a pity he did not speak out about the proposed destruction of approximately 50 healthy trees in Boverton.

These trees are home to an amazing number of species, both plants and animals.

We currently have sparrowhawks nesting in there, alongside so many others – woodpeckers, jays etc.

Nearby, on Ruthin common, the rare brown fritillary butterfly can also be found, only one of four sites in the UK.

As a keen wildlife enthusiast myself, I would ask all local residents to consider how lucky they are to live in such a wildlife-rich area and how they will feel if it changes.

The proposed turbine does not sound very conservation-friendly to me.

Many people are still not aware of this planning application.

As a friend of mine pointed out: "If it is so large that it will be visible to most of the Vale, why hasn't the council made me aware of it?"

"I will certainly see it from my property, even though I do not live in St Mary Hill."

I ask everyone to consider this – will you see it, and how detrimental is it to our beautiful (and rare) declining species? Mike Rees St Mary Hill

Diabetes UK call for volunteers

I AM writing to let you readers know that Diabetes UK is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help co-ordinate a collection weekend at their local Tesco store later this year.

Twenty four volunteers are needed to support the Big Collection weekend taking place at Bridgend's Tesco Extra on Cowbridge Road on October 4, 5 and 6.

The weekend aims to raise £400,000 to sup-

port the three million people living with diabetes in the UK and help find the 850,000 people who remain undiagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.

Volunteers can select three hour shifts, running from 9am until 6pm on October 4 and 5 and 10am till 4pm on October 6.

Visit www.diabetes.org.uk/big-collection or email DiabetesUKCymru@diabetes.org.uk team by emailing wales@diabetes.org.uk.

Dai Williams
Director of Diabetes UK Cymru

PACT meetings

MORFA TOWN PACT, at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, on August 12 at 6.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT, at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, on August 22 at 6.30pm.

BRYNTRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on September 12 at 7pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT, at the Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, on September 18 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD and PENDRE PACT, at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on September 23 at 6.30pm.

BRACKLA PACT, at Brackla Junior School, Bridgend, on September 26 at 6.30pm.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
08 Thur	08.11	9.3	20.22	9.6
09 Fri	08.44	9.4	20.53	9.6
10 Sat	09.16	9.5	21.31	9.7
11 Sun	09.52	9.2	22.07	9.4
12 Mon	10.28	9.3	22.45	9.1
13 Tues	11.06	8.9	23.27	8.7
14 Wed	11.54	8.5		
15 Thur	00.19	8.4	12.48	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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CHARITY SHOWGIRLS MAKE GRAND GESTURE AS FINAL CURTAIN COMES DOWN...

Report and photographs
by KEITH E MORGAN



Dr Alison Jones presented a cheque for £130 to Gill Gore of 'Dreams and Wishes'.

A PORTHCAWL-BASED group that staged charity shows at the Grand Pavilion, recently got together for a reunion and a final grand gesture.

The group staged shows under the banner 'Show on a Shoestring' over a 10-year period, with the last show staged in 1997.

Dr Alison Jones, a member of the



ABOVE: A cheque for £1,000 was presented by Linda Fletcher to Gary Banks of the Sandville.

group, said: "It has been 16 years since the last 'Show on a Shoestring' and we decided to have a reunion evening at Sandville Court.

"After the last show, we had kept money back in preparation for the next show, but Shoestring had to disband.

"We always supported Sandville and during the 'Show on a Shoestring' years, we had donated approximately

£40,000. We decided on one last donation."

In fact, at the reunion night, two cheques were presented – one for £1,000 to Sandville and one for £130 to the charity 'Dreams and Wishes' in memory of Macsen Giess.

Macsen, a Porthcawl boy who tragically died at the age of 11 from leukaemia, was a young ambassador for the charity.

Porthcawl's maritime centre project takes a step forward

by PHILIP IRWIN

PLANS to put a landmark building alongside Porthcawl Harbour have taken a step forward with the appointment of a consultant who will carry out a feasibility study.

The building, described as a "multi-functional maritime centre", is the brainchild of Porthcawl Harbourside CIC, a community interest company formed jointly by Porthcawl Sea Cadets and The Welsh Surfing Federation.

Plans for the building were unveiled a month ago and were welcomed by local residents who inspected them at an exhibition in the YMCA's Y Centre in

Porthcawl.

Now, a national company 'Wider Impact Consultancy Ltd' (WIC) has now been appointed to carry out the viability study, which will be completed over the next three months.

Announcing the appointment Mike Clarke, a director of Porthcawl Harbourside CIC, and the chair of Porthcawl Sea Cadets, said: "It is essential that the business model is built on a sound footing, is clear about its objectives and is financially sustainable in the future.

"The board was very impressed with WIC Ltd's presentation and in particular their grasp of

what we are seeking to achieve for Porthcawl."

Wider Impact Consultancy Ltd's director Edwin Lewis said that the company had worked on a number of projects, many linked to young people and "community capacity building" in the Bridgend area.

He said: "There can be no doubt that this initiative has the potential to make significant economic and social impact.

"We are looking forward to carrying out close scrutiny of key issues such as finance, and most importantly listening to the views and opinions of stakeholders, which will involve wider community members."

Explore the dunes of Kenfig this summer

KENFIG National Nature Reserve is hosting a free 'Dunetrekka' event on Sunday, August 18, between 11am and 4pm to give families a fascinating insight into the dunes and the local habitat.

Budding conservationists can enjoy activities such as a reserve 'safari' tour, bird watching, moth tracking, guided walks, a treasure hunt and a dog agility challenge.

There will also be story-telling and an opportunity to build and paint your own bird box. The free event is being organised by Bridgend

County Borough Nature Reserve and Council's countryside and tourism teams, working with local conservation groups.

Coun David Sage, cabinet member for tourism, said: "This brand new event will highlight a unique stretch of our coastline which is a great place to spend some time.

"It will raise awareness of what can be found at Kenfig National

Nature Reserve and emphasise how important it is to conserve what is there for future generations.

"The event also aims to promote nature in general, and encourage families to enjoy the great outdoors throughout the wider county borough too."

To find out more about 'Dunetrekka', telephone 01656 786639 or visit www.bridgendbites.com.

AM's concerns over Nolton Street regeneration work

SHADOW Welsh regeneration minister Byron Davies has asked for a meeting with BCBC chief executive Darren Mepham – to discuss problems connected with the latest phase of Bridgend town centre regeneration.

Mr Davies has made the move following meetings with traders in the Nolton Street area where work is currently under way on widening pavements, narrowing the road and reversing the traffic flow.

Mr Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, met Freya Sykes and her husband Steve, who run a sweet-making business and sweet shop in the street.

Mrs Sykes had contacted him after reading comments he had made about regeneration. She said that traders in Nolton Street are at the end of their tether because of a lack of consultation.

She said: "There was a traders' meeting called by the council the other week which had the work in Nolton Street on its agenda but nobody from the street was told about it or invited to attend.

"How can we be ignored like this? It's our livelihoods that are being affected."

Mrs Sykes said that Nolton Street was now a nightmare for pedestrians as they had to negotiate trenches and safety barriers.

"One lady in a wheelchair was trapped as her wheels went into a rut," she said. "There was also an incident in which a pram tipped over. People will just stop coming here."

Mrs Sykes said that some days, there is very little activity on the project.

"We have counted just one workman here some days," she said. "We want the work speeded up. The longer the disruption goes on, the more our businesses are affected."

Mr Davies said he was shocked to hear that the finishing date for the work on Nolton Street is April 2014.

He said: "I cannot believe that the council intends to take almost 12 months to carry out this relatively simple project.

"I will be asking them to explain the time-scale and why they agreed such a long contract length if that is the case. It seems to me that the council should have insisted that the contractors were in and out of the town centre as quickly as possible."



Regional AM Byron Davies with Sam Marshall of Pink Butterfly and Freya and Steve Sykes.

Mr Davies also met Sam Marshall of Pink Butterfly bridal shop, who said that there was almost no footfall now in the street.

She said: "We used to get passers-by who would come in to buy shoes or jewellery they saw in the window.

"We have now stopped selling these items because there is no passing trade. We concentrate entirely on bridal items as we are a destination wedding shop so people make a point of coming to us."

She said that in six years of trading in Bridgend, she had no idea that there was a town centre manager until recently.

"I never once saw her or heard anything about it. There is no liaison and nobody is listening to what we are saying as traders. It is very frustrating."

Byron Davies said that he would also ask about what consultation the council carried out with traders, as too many of them are saying that no-one is listening.

A spokesperson for BCBC responded: "The Nolton Street works form an important part of Bridgend's ongoing multi-million pound regeneration scheme.

"When completed, traders, shoppers, pedestrians and visitors will benefit from new on-street parking bays, wider pavements, improved pedestrian safety, attractive landscaping, new street furniture and dedicated loading bays for local shops.

"The one-way traffic system will make Nolton Street a key gateway into the heart of the town centre and make it easier for drivers to approach the Rhiw multi-storey car park by coming down Rhiw Hill.

"The comments on lack of consultation

is surprising as the town centre manager and other council officers went door to door and spoke extensively with Nolton Street traders last year when planning the scheme – and have detailed notes of all comments made.

"We have taken account of traders' feedback, especially in relation to the positioning of on-street parking and loading bays and continue to enjoy a very constructive relationship with the Bridgend Traders Forum, who represent the interests of the town traders.

"Regeneration work of this scale does bring inevitable disruption, but the end result will be a much safer, more accessible and attractive Bridgend.

"We are pleased that shoppers continue to support their local traders and the mix of high street and independent retailers which the town has to offer, demonstrated by July's 3.4 per cent increase in Nolton Street footfall compared with the same time last year.

"The Rhiw Shopping Centre also saw 556,271 people through their doors in July, a 38 per cent increase on June, so it's pleasing more people are choosing to shop in Bridgend town centre."

Steve Watkins, the chair of the Bridgend Traders' Forum, told THE GEM that Nolton Street was an important gateway into the town that needed to be improved, and said that when the work was completed, the traders there would benefit from the parking bays and drop off points.

A date for a meeting between Mr Davies and Mr Mepham has been set for September.

Brace of wins for Get Home Now...

BRIDGEND'S Gwyn Brace and his daughter Jayne, who are the joint owners of Get Home Now, a five-year-old bay gelding, had plenty to smile about last week, when their horse romped home a 10-length winner at far flung Market Rasen.

Get Home Now, a 3-1 favourite, and a winner at Uttoxeter earlier in the season, was ridden by Tom O'Brien, and is trained in Pembrokeshire by Peter Bowen.

BRIAN LEE

'Love of Art' goes on display in Porthcawl

A 'LOVE of Art' exhibition at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion Cafe Bar celebrates the work of four local people.

Howell Davies who formed the Scribbles Art Group last year and organised the exhibition, is a decisive man, which shows in his very precise work.

Jose Miles never went to art college, but his natural talent can be seen

in the mix of water-colour, acrylic and oil.

Ann Murphy originally worked through the medium of embroidery, her work can be found in the Y Centre, All Saints church and elsewhere. She now contents herself with poetry and the line drawings on display.

Her husband John Murphy's display is mixed media. Drawings created 23 years ago are complemented by bas relief sculptures.

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Kenfig Hill shop closes doors after 38 years

Pat Angell is shutting up shop at 'Stitchcraft' after 38 years.



AS we reported in last week's GEM, it will be the end of an era in Kenfig Hill when Pat Angell closes the door on 'Stitchcraft' – after 38 years.

Pat ran the haberdashery, ladies clothing and mending shop, while her husband, Wyndham Angell, ran the butchers in Nottage, until his retirement a few years ago.

Pat is part of Porthcawl history in that she and her daughter both performed on stage in the Grand Pavilion,

appearing in shows such as the RAFA Show and 'Show on a Shoestring'. (See story on page 1 and 3).

In fact, costumes Pat made for these shows are still available to appropriate organisations, free of charge, and Pat can be contacted on 01656 740769.

The shop's contents, including shop fittings, are to be sold, and much of the 'new' clothing dates back to the 1980s and would certainly appeal to collectors of period garments!

SOCIETY STAFF HELP TO BUILD UP CHARITY FUNDS FOR MACMILLAN

STAFF at the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire Building Society teamed up to complete an eight-mile walk to raise money for local people affected by cancer.

They were Jo Williams, Hannah Lane, branch manager, Jon Tucker supported by Gareth Simpson, Dave Phillips, Neil Lane and Sam Williams.

Mr Tucker said: "We're really pleased that in doing the walk we have been able to help raise as much money as we have for Macmillan – thanks to the generosity of our customers and members of the public."

"Although it was quite difficult because of the heat, it was great to be out and about in the area, walking alongside so many other people who all want to help such a fantastic cause."

"The whole team really enjoyed the walk, and we're proud to support such an important charity in our community."

Rebecca Parke, fundraising manager for Macmillan in Cowbridge, said: "Well done to everyone who took part in the walk and a huge thank you to all the customers who sponsored the team's efforts. "Macmillan is almost entirely funded by dona-

tions so every penny that the team raise really will help to make a difference to the support we can provide to people affected by cancer."

"Last year in the Vale, Macmillan provided almost £15,000 worth of grants to 53 people affected by cancer to support with additional costs, such as travel to and from hospital appointments."

"It's thanks to people fundraising, like the team at Yorkshire Building Society, that we are able to provide this support."

To organise your own Macmillan walk or for more information visit www.macmillan.org.uk/walk



In the picture are: Gareth Simpson, Dave Phillips, Neil Lane, Hannah Lane, Jonathan Tucker, Jo Williams, Sam Williams, and the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Gwen Baty.

Railway and heritage groups open up Garw Valley – with exhibition!

ON July 27, the Garw Valley Heritage Society and The Garw Valley Railway group held an open exhibition.

Local people enjoyed guided tours of the railway shed, situated in Old Station Yard, Pontycymmer, where volunteers showed off the trains, answered questions, and talked about their plans for the future of the railway.

"We hope to restore passenger train services between Pontycymmer and Tondur within the next 10 years, and possibly into Brynmynen Industrial Estate, where a National Railway Centre could be developed," said Chris Adams of the Garw Valley Railway Group.

The Garw Valley Heritage Society also held an exhibition inside the Garw Valley leisure centre, which is run by Halo Leisure.

This included a presentation made up of rare photos of the valley, showing the changes of

people, businesses and the landscape through the decades.

"A brilliant insightful presentation made by the heritage group, who are obviously passionate about what they do, fascinating!" reported Connie Minifey, Pontycymmer (business owner 1973-1990).

Local businesses also

supported the groups by providing stalls for the steady stream of visitors.

For more information about the Garw Valley Railway or Heritage Societies see www.garw-railway.co.uk or www.garwheritage.co.uk or telephone 01656 870834.

Green energy 'surge' predicted

BARRIE ROBERTS has been appointed renewable energy manager at Topstak, Vale-based specialists in renewable energy solutions, wood burning stoves and kitchens.

The appointment comes ahead of the domestic renewable heat incentive (RHI), destined for implementation in spring 2014.

"The Government is introducing the scheme

to provide longer-term financial support to households for the installation of renewable heating technologies, and is likely to lead to a surge in interest in the so-called green technologies, in the way that the solar PV feed-in tariff created interest a few years ago," Topstak director, Adam Pedersen, explained.

Topstak covers a broad base of renewable energy systems, from solar PV and solar thermal, to bio-mass boilers.

Motorbike stolen in flat burglary

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating the burglary of a flat on the Tudor Estate in Caerau, when a blue and white Yamaha PW50 motorcyle was stolen.

The burglary took place between 6pm and 7.15pm on Sunday, July 28. Access was gained through a rear window and the motorbike was removed via the front door. The child-size motorcyle featured the number 166 on the fairing.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant from Bridgend CID said: "The burglary was on Sunday evening and we are appealing for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious, who saw the small motorcyle being pushed away from the area."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant at Bridgend CID on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Who wants to build what and where?

BCBC Parks – 59 Banc yr Allt, Bryntirion, Bridgend – Cut back branches overhanging rear garden to fence line.

Mrs G Hegarty – Newcastle House, West Road, Bridgend – Carry out various works to horse chestnut tree.

BCBC Parks – Wilderness lake, rear Ger y Lyn, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Fell and remove five dead trees.

BCBC Parks – Rear 14, 15 and 16 Sedd Goch, Brackla, Bridgend – Fell and remove six dead trees.

Wales & West Housing – Land at Greyfriars Court, Coity Road, Bridgend – Fell one silver birch and one rowan tree.

Wales & West Housing – Land at The Beeches, Quarella Road, Bridgend – Fell two horse chestnut trees.

The Owner/occupier – 77 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend – Fell ash tree (retrospective application).

Leadbitter – Panddy Park, Terfyn, Ynysawdre – Move storage container from Ynysawdre School to Panddy Park.

Mr Andrew Dixon – 29 Court Street, Maesteg, Bridgend – Demolish existing

single storey extension and construct double storey extension.

Mrs Elaine Griffiths – 55 Long Acre Drive, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Dormer extension to front elevation.

Cefn Cribbwr Athletic Club – Cae Gof playing field, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – Deposit of sub-soil on unused strip of land and graded and seeded on completion.

Dainton Group Services Ltd – Land at Coity Road sidings, Bridgend – Develop site for use as storage facility.

Mrs Karen Davies – West Farm Stables, Ty Canol, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Part C/U from stabling/livery of horses to use for horses and educating disadvantaged children and livery.

Mr A Mitchell – 13 Clos Castell Newydd, Broadlands, Bridgend – Conversion of integral garage to granny annexe and erect two rear conservatories.

Mr Carter – Plot 23, Porth y Castell (Parc Derwen) Coity, Bridgend – Proposed erection of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Mr O Ladbroke-Davies – 4/4A Nolton Street, Bridgend – Change of use of first floor offices (A2 Financial & Professional Services)/B1 to A3 (bar/restaurant/cafe).

HD Ltd – Elder Mews off Elder Street, Bridgend – Proposed bin/plant store and boundary wall.

Mr Rees – 52 St Illtyds Road, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – Extension to rear to provide kitchen/dining room and replace existing side extension.

Mr M Platt – 13 Wernlys Road, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – First floor single storey side extension.

Mr Owen – Plot 90, Carreg Erw, Parc Derwen, Coity, Bridgend – Alteration to approved dwelling to include rear conservatory.

Channel Energy Limited – Atlantic Array Offshore Windfarm, Bristol Channel – 240 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure, an installed capacity of 1,200MW.

Mrs Hasmi – 69 Priory Oak, Brackla – First floor front/side extension and canopy over front door.

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SOCIETY'S PHOTO COMPETITION ENTRIES FEATURE IN GRAND PAVILION EXHIBITION

AN EXHIBITION now running at the grand Pavilion highlights the work of local photographers.

The fourth annual Porthcawl Photographic Society competition took place recently and was open to all Welsh photographic clubs and societies.

Some outstanding photographic prints were presented for judging by Les Loosemore ARPS, AWPF.

The winner was Geoff Baker, with an image entitled '48 seconds at Ogmore'.

The runner up was Glyn Edmunds with 'After the Rain on the Masai Mara' and the 'Magical Sights Safaris' Trophy went to Richard Craze for 'The Blue Feather'.

Les Loosemore, the judge, presented the trophies to the winners.

All the photographs entered will form part of a much larger exhibition which opened at the Grand Pavilion on August 5 to the public and will run for a week.



The winning entry, Geoff Baker's '48 seconds at Ogmore'.



ABOVE: Glyn Edmunds (right) with judge Les Loosemore.



ABOVE: Richard Craze (right) receives his prize.



ABOVE: Geoff Baker.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE NEWS IN YOUR AREA



**COMMUNITY
NEWS from
KENFIG HILL
AND PYLE**
by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net



PCSO Nerys Lloyd with rugby-playing 6'7" Kyle Maiden.



Glyn Edmunds' Masai Mara photograph.

**Cymdeithas
Cynffig**
THE Kenfig
Society is planning
a visit for members
to Llanblethian
Castle, Cowbridge,
on Tuesday, August
20.

They will be departing from the Pyle Life Centre at 6.30pm. The society have many interesting talks at their meetings and also visit places of interest.

For details of these events and how to become a member, ring Linda Knight on 01656 742623.

**Neighbourhood
Watch**

GOOD news - the
Pyle Neighbourhood
Policing Team has

increased to four since
being joined by PCSO
Kyle Maiden, straight
out of training.

Pyle NPT now has
two teams consisting of
PCSOs, Nerys Lloyd
and Kyle Maiden, straight
out of training.

Having two teams
means that there will
always be a PCSO on
duty at some point during
the day.

On Saturday last
week, a mobile police
station was set up in the
Co-op car park, Pyle,
offering crime prevention
advice and tips to the
public, after a spate of
vehicle crime in the
area.

They reported that
two persons had been
arrested and charged

with six counts of theft;
both are currently on
remand.

Parish news
PYLE and Kenfig
Mothers Union are
putting on a cream tea
in the Parish Hall,
Pyle, tomorrow
(Friday, August 9) at
3.30pm. Tickets are £3
and all money is in aid
of Mothers Union
Projects.

There will be an
organ recital by Juan
Paradel (organist of the
Sistine Chapel in
Rome) at 4pm on
Sunday, August 11 in
Margam Abbey.
Everyone is welcome.
Everyone is invited to
'national Back to
Church Sunday' at St
Magdalene Church,
Maudlam, at 9.30am
and St James' Church,
Pyle, at 11am on
Sunday, September 15.

**Wellbeing
Centre**
INCLUDED in activities
being held by the
Mental Health
Matters at the Talbot
Community Centre,
Prince Road, Kenfig
Hill, on August 14 will
be a talk by Paul
Mizen, SWALEC,
from 1pm to 4pm; arts
and crafts from 2pm
to 4pm; and the reading
group from 3pm to
4pm. It will be a great
social afternoon. All
are welcome.

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Stephen Webber will be in your local area to talk about:

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- **Work place injuries** including factory, construction, agricultural, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Steve will be at Brackla Community Centre, Oaktree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, CF31 2PG on the date listed below.

Tuesday 13 August

10am - 7pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Stephen Webber

T: 0800 0938240

E: stephen.webber@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Jail for burglar who 'ransacked every room' of family home

A HOUSEHOLD-ER was "horrified" when she returned to her family home and found it had been burgled.

Adam Jones, 28, of Treharne Road, Barry, ransacked every single room, said prosecutor Tony Trigg.

Jones, a father of two, pleaded guilty to charges of burglary and fraud and was jailed for a total

of 18 months.

Mr Trigg said that on May 10, Jones raided the Morel Street, Barry, home of Mrs Georgina James.

"She was absolutely horrified to find the house was totally ransacked. Every room had been affected," he said.

Jones had got in by forcing a kitchen window and had taken electrical items and watches of sentimental value;

one worth £350.

"Later that day, he went to a shop in Holton Road and tried to sell some of the property, but a sales assistant had been tipped off about the burglary and realised the property was stolen," he added.

A footprint at the scene was identified as that of Jones and he was later arrested. Some of the stolen property was recovered.

In a statement, Mrs James said: "My house was turned upside down".

She said she was frightened of being in the house and was paranoid when she saw people in the street. Jones, the court heard, had convictions for 55 offences, including violence and burglary.

Solicitor Adam Sharpe said: "At the time, he was injecting methadone in large quantities and his recollection of what happened is not good. His mind was not all there."

He said that eight of the 17 items taken were recovered and the house was not specifically targeted.

"It was all very unsophisticated and it was inevitable he was going to be detected. There was a period when, for five-and-a-half years, he didn't offend. He is the first to acknowledge that his position is precarious."

The court heard that he was also in breach of a community order for aggravated vehicle taking.

Judge Philip Richards told him "This was a serious burglary and there was a significant degree of loss, both sentimental and economic."

He said there was now a feeling of unease for the family which had suffered trauma.

CCTV spotted man with kitchen knife

AN alert CCTV operator spotted a man carrying a weapon late at night in a town centre, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Nathan Duffield, 23, of Fairfield Street, Barry, pleaded guilty to possessing a bladed article, a kitchen knife, in a public place.

He was jailed for 32 weeks, the sentence suspended for a year and ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

Judge Philip Richards told him: "You committed a very serious act, having possession of a fearsome weapon. Clearly, it calls for a custodial sentence, which usually has to be immediate."

Prosecutor Hywel Hughes said that on June 4 at about 23.48pm, a CCTV operator spotted Duffield, who was hooded, with another person, near Bassett Street, Barry.

Two other people turned up and one of them lunged at Duffield and they appeared to argue. One of the group brandished a hammer. Mr Hughes said

that the defendant was holding a large kitchen knife and appeared agitated.

The police were alerted and went to a flat in Holton Road, where Duffield had gone, and recovered the knife. He had a small amount of cannabis, for which he was later cautioned.

Mr Hughes said he admitted having the knife and explained it was for self-defence. At the time he was going to buy cannabis.

His counsel Claire Pickthall said: "He cannot explain how ashamed he is. He is devastated at his foolishness."

"He has let down his partner, his children and his parents."

She said the offence was out of character and he had genuinely learnt a lesson.

At the time, for the first time for three years, he was going to buy cannabis and had been drinking. He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Man fired airgun to 'scare' his girlfriend

A man who fired an air rifle in the street after a row with his girlfriend, has been jailed for 21 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Lee Vaughan (44) of Littlemore Hill, Barry, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and alarm, and possessing cannabis.

Prosecutor Gareth James said the firearms offence came to light as a result of a CCTV operator spotting him in the Littlemore Hill area.

The operator spotted Vaughan coming into the picture and discharging an air rifle.

At the time, Vaughan was in a relationship with Jessica Martell, but it had broken down as far as he was concerned.

He went to his address, and told her to leave. As she walked away, she heard a whistling sound and when she turned, she saw Vaughan lowering a gun.

He had fired one pellet, not directly at her.

He later said he had fired the gun to scare Miss Martell and make her leave.

She later said: "I decided to go, because he was not happy with me being there."

The police were later alerted and Vaughan volunteered to hand over the weapon. He also had on him cannabis worth £20.

He said he had told the police: "I came to the conclusion she was not getting the message," and took the gun

to frighten her.

He was said to have convictions for 10 offences, including wounding with intent, for which he received seven years in a young offender institution.

His barrister, Kevin Seal, said: "Using that gun was stupid more than anything."

There had been problems with the relationship which is now back on track.

"I have to concede that what he did passes the custody threshold. For many years, he has had problems with drink."

"He is the primary carer for his father."

Judge Tom Crowther QC said using the gun in a public place was particularly serious.

There was a single shot, not directly at Miss Martell, and there was no traffic or bystanders in the area at the time.

The Judge ordered the weapon to be destroyed. Vaughan was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

IN BRIEF

Lib-Dem surgery
WELSH Lib-Dem AM for south Wales west, Peter Black, will be holding a surgery this Friday (August 9) in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm. No appointment is necessary.

Garden party
ST James Church, Wick, will hold a garden party, on August 24 at Green Isaf Farm, Wick at 2pm.

Local walkers' delight as walls along coastal pathway are repaired

AN Ogmores-by-Sea resident has thanked the Vale Council for ensuring that repairs have taken place to walls along the coastal walk.

Mr Robin Eggleston, a keen local walker, told The GEM that some time ago, breaches in the walls enclosing fields had been rectified, but over time new gaps had opened up.

He explained: "About 12 years ago, a builder came with Land Rover, trailer and building materials and rebuilt various stone walls alongside the Ogmores-by-Sea coastal path.

"He told me that the walls were damaged by sheep jumping over them and needed quite regular maintenance.

"The southernmost wall is about 250 metres long, and separates the coastal path from the bottoms of three fields.

"Over the years, five breaches have developed in this southern wall, and these became progressively more unsightly, as well as causing loose stones to inconvenience walkers."

Mr Eggleston contacted the Vale's MP to see if he could help.

"In December, 2012, I wrote to Alun Cairns. He replied that as our councillor was on compassionate leave, he would speak to the



ABOVE: A local walker admiring a repair to the wall.



A gate had to be placed across one of the breaches in the wall.

leader of the Vale Council about it himself.

"What a delight to find that the wall has now been repaired – and so well!

"We local walkers would like it known that we appreciate the work of Mr. Cairns, the Vale Council and the craftsman who made this wall so good."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find good homes for dogs at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

BOLT AND RIO NEED YOU!



Bolt
BOLT is a two-year-old greyhound who has had a difficult start in life, and is still getting over some harsh handling.

Despite this he is a lovely dog to those that know him. He enjoys his exercise, and a good sprint off lead.

He loves his toys, and we have really enjoyed seeing his cheeky and playful nature shine through during his time with us.

Rio
Rio is a two-year-old terrier cross – a cracking little dog with a big personality.



Rio is bright and active, and he is very quick to learn and would make a fantastic agility dog. He really enjoys the company of other dogs, and would like to find a home with some canine friends to help him settle in.

He is housetrained, and can be left with other dogs for a few hours.

He is looking for an owner with experience of terriers, who will carry on with his reward-based training.

Linda Feagan
(Supporter Relations Officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Can you give Romeo and Juliet a happy ending?

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are hoping to find a happy ending for their own real life Romeo and Juliet, who have fallen in love at the Rehoming Centre in Bridgend.

Sebastian and Meg (pictured right) were handed in separately, and have been inseparable ever since.

They are hoping someone will fall in love with them both and give them a home together.

Before Sebastian met Meg, he suffered from severe separation anxiety; despite being very gentle and loving, he was a withdrawn, nervous dog with little appetite.

Staff gave him extra TLC and introduced him to plenty of potential kennel mates, but nothing could help him find any enjoyment in life until he met Meg.

He spent six months waiting for a home; when introduced to six-year-old Lurcher Meg, she seemed to know immediately that he needed her help and would pull towards him and rub her face on his.

Staff decided to kennel them together and the change was incredible – Sebastian became a different dog, he developed a huge appetite for food and for life and began to play all the time, though always with a paw on Meg for reassurance.

Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre manager Beverly Price said:

"During the past 20 years at the Rehoming Centre, I have never seen such a strong bond between two dogs.



It is heart-warming to see how Sebastian has changed since Meg came into his life.

"He has grown so much in personality and has become a happy confident dog, who would make a fantastic pet in a patient, adult home prepared to nurture two gentle, loving Lurchers.

"It can be a little harder to find homes for pairs of dogs but it is clear that now this inseparable pair are soul mates and we are keen to find them a loving home together."

Anyone interested in rehoming Seb and Meg, can call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Dogs Trust Bridgend has dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes and, when matching dogs with new owners, staff will consider a wide range of homes and circumstances providing that they will fit the requirements of the dog and provide them with a loving lasting home.

Petition to save Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill fire stations gets 2,000 signatories

A CAMPAIGN opposing plans to close the fire stations in Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill is gathering pace.

Last Saturday (August 3) members of the Fire Brigades Union were at the bandstand in John Street, Porthcawl, launching a petition to oppose the scheme – which will see a brand new station built between the communities, in South Cornelly.

At the moment, Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill each has a fire appliance crewed 24/7. The new station would have only one appliance, so only half of the part time (retained) firefighters who are currently employed at the two stations would be required.

Mark Watt, the Fire Brigade Union secretary for south Wales, told The GEM that while the union had accepted several cost-saving measures in recent years, they could see no logic in this option.

He said: "The cost of building a new station is

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

about £2.5 million, and closing the two stations would only bring about a saving of £187,000 in running costs.

"It would take years to start saving money at that rate, and in the meantime, fire cover in both Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill would be reduced."

He said that at the moment, if there was a crash on the M4, Porthcawl rarely had to respond, meaning that cover in the area was maintained.

However, the South Cornelly fire engine would be very likely to be called to M4 incidents, leaving Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill without cover."

The Welsh Conservative Regional AM Suzy Davies is backing the campaign to keep the fire station in Porthcawl.

She was at the station's event in John Street on Saturday, and also distributed petitions in the nearby villages.

She told The GEM that the only way the Fire Service could make significant savings was through selling the land at Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill.

She pointed out that the ambulance service share the Porthcawl town centre site with the fire service, and said that she feared that all the land would be sold, with the ambulance going to South Cornelly as well.

She said: "To hear that Porthcawl may possibly be hit by a double whammy of losing not only its fire station but also its ambulance station is very worrying. Porthcawl needs both services in

situ. There is a high concentration of nursing and residential homes for the elderly in the town – creating a risk which requires both ambulance and fire cover.

"Porthcawl also has the highest proportion of people of retirement age and over in the borough – which again means more demand for ambulance services.

"As far as fire cover is concerned, I have already highlighted the extra risks involved with having one of Europe's largest caravan sites in the town, plus the large number of hotels, guest houses, flats and houses of multiple occupation, which pose a great risk to life in a fire."

Coun Sean Aspey, who represents Porthcawl as an independent on the borough and town council, is also opposed to the plan.

He told The GEM: "It will be a tragedy for the town if the fire station is moved.

"Porthcawl has 11,000 properties and 4,000 caravans, and in the summer the population increases – as does the traffic. Getting in and out of Porthcawl can be a real problem, and South Cornelly is too far away.

"Porthcawl has had a fire station ever since the 1800s, and changing that now could lead to serious trouble."

Mark Watt said that the summer population in Porthcawl contained a high number of people who were drinking during the day and evening – because they were on holiday – and with that came a greater risk of accidental domestic fires.

The Fire Service has said that the number of call-outs to fires in Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill have dropped markedly in recent years.

However, Suzy Davies said: "I struggle to see how it is viable to replace these stations with one at Cornelly. Fire fighters don't just put out fires.

"Call outs to incidents other than fires are on the rise and basing a decision on the number of fire call-outs is making a decision on half a story.

"Porthcawl is a seaside resort and I know myself how slow the traffic can be on fine summer days.

"How will a fire engine based in Cornelly actually get into the town, not to mention the fact that half its crew may have had to travel out of Porthcawl in the first place to get to the new station?"

"They would have to do this in under five minutes, only to take the engine all the way back into town! The vast majority of calls attended by the Porthcawl crew are within the town limits."

"I will be lodging objections to the proposal under the consultation, which ends on September 6, and I would urge people in both Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill to do the same."

Mark Watt said that the petition, which was only launched a few days before, had already passed the 2,000-signature mark. It is being made available in shops throughout the area.



Borough councillors Ken Watts (left) and Sean Aspey (second right) joined Suzy Davies AM when the Fire Brigades Union launched its petition in Porthcawl.

Design a new library card

BRIDGEND library and information service is calling on the county borough's budding artists to enter a competition to design its new membership cards.

The service is revamping its adults' and children's library cards as part of its modernisation programme to mark the opening of the new Bridgend library at Bridgend Recreation Centre later this year.

The competition, which is aimed at amateur artists of all ages and abilities, has no set design brief.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "What a novel idea to give local people the opportunity to design the new membership cards. There is plenty of creative talent in Bridgend county borough, so there's no doubt that reams of exceptional entries will come in.

"The winning designers of both the adults and children's membership cards will each win an Amazon voucher, so not only will their design be in hundreds of library members' pockets, but their pockets will benefit, too!"

Contact email: blis@bridgend.gov.uk.

Local courses lined up for Seniors' Open

THREE of Wales' leading links courses – Ashburnham Golf Club, Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club and Kenfig and Southerndown Golf Club – have been announced as host venues for the Monday qualifying event prior to The 2014 Senior Open Championship, presented by Rolex, at Royal Porthcawl next year (July 24-27).

After a record number of entrants in 2013, it is expected that more than 300 golfers will compete in the qualifying event on Monday July 21, hoping to earn a place in Wales' first major championship.

They will be vying for approximately 30 spots in the field for the Senior Open Championship, and the chance to play alongside some of the game's all-time greats, such as 2012 champion Fred Couples, Bernhard

Langer and home favourite Ian Woosnam.

Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club hosted the Senior Ladies British Open Amateur Championship in 2009 and has twice assisted with the stroke play rounds of the Amateur Championship.

Southerndown Golf Club was created by a number of leading architects, including Willie Fernie, Herbert Fowler, Willie Park, Harry Colt and Donald Steel.

It hosted the Martini International in 1968, won by home favourite

Brian Huggett, as well as the Piccadilly Medal in 1970 and 1971.

Wales' First Minister, Carwyn Jones said: "We have already proven that we can host top quality international golf events here in Wales, and continue to work tirelessly to capitalise on the profile we have gained from this.

"The fact that these three links courses will host the qualifying events shows our reputation as a golfing nation continues to go from strength to strength."

Hospital thanked

I WAS a patient at the Princess of Wales hospital, Bridgend, for 10 days earlier this year.

I was very well looked after and was not asked if I had insurance or required to pay.

Unlike other countries in the news, I did not have to walk for three days to get to hospital. Everything was free.

Thank heavens for our nurses, doctors and all the other staff.

JOAN WHITTON, Cowbridge

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The GEM

News, Sport, Letters,
Features, What's On,
Jobs, Motors....

THE Pen-y-Fai under-12 football team have celebrated the end of their first season of competition in the Bridgend Junior League.

The boys, who finished in third place after scoring an impressive 28 goals during their final two games in the space of three days, enjoyed two special events organised by coaches and parents.

They played a game against their coaches and parents at Archbishop Comprehensive School, the parents running out unlikely winners in a close match on the school's 3G pitch.

This was followed by a fun presentation evening held at The Great Western Railway Club in Bridgend. After the speeches, local poet and author Mike Church entertained the boys and parents with jokes, juggling and poetry.

At the end of the evening, the boys were presented with trophies and new drill tops.

Coaches Hew, Toby and Barry said they have been "really impressed" with the boys' commitment and attitude. They believe the team are the most improved in the Bridgend league and everyone is looking forward to the new season.

DIANA APPERLEY



The players
at their
presentation
evening.

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Claire helping to highlight swimming dangers to young

A BUSY HR manager has dedicated her spare time to teaching life-saving skills to young children – as part of an initiative to improve safety in swimming.

Throughout the year, Claire Thomas, along with other coaches, helps 7 to 13 year olds at Llantwit Major SLSC (Surf Life-Saving Club) to improve their water survival skills, teaching them lifeguard techniques designed to reduce water accident rates.

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, young children are more likely to drown in rivers and beaches than in baths at home. Drowning is mainly caused by lack of awareness of water dangers, as well as lacking swimming skills.

Keen to improve children's knowledge of swimming dangers, Claire is one of the longest serving voluntary coaches at Llantwit Major SLSC, a voluntary club affiliated to the Surf Life Saving Association Wales (SLSAW). Along with other club members, they patrol the beach at weekends between May

and mid-September.

Having been involved with the club since she was a teenager, Claire (42) provides knowledge for life-saving skills at annual national Nipper camp courses run by the SLSAW, one of which took place recently at Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle.

Participants, including 260 children from associated SLSAW clubs, were able to practice life-saving skills, from beach and water safety, first aid, basic life support skills, in addition to taking part in outdoor games, fitness and swimming.

With support from other SLSAW volunteer coaches, they are taught to ensure they reach the necessary standard and all young people completing the course were awarded a certificate marking their achievement.

Sponsored by Waterstone Homes, the event celebrated the club's 50-year anniversary, with 50 children from Llantwit Major SLSC attending the camp.

This month, they will be sending a team of Nippers, juniors, seniors and masters to compete in the SLSGB National Sport Surf

Championships in Saunton Sands, Devon.

Mother of two, Claire, along with her husband Phillip, also a coach, are keen to get their own children involved. They have enrolled their eight-year-old son, Iwan, who is in his second year of Nippers – while their 13-year-old daughter, Cerys, is in her final year before moving onto the junior section.

Claire, HR manager at Waterstone Homes, stressed that it is important for children to learn about swimming safely and being prepared to help others.

She said: "I am proud to be a key part of Llantwit Major SLSC, as I feel it is very important for children to learn about beach safety and swimming safely from a young age. I have been doing

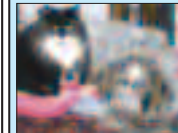
this since I was very young and I happily spend my spare time supporting activities that promote safety in the community.

"The club are very grateful to Waterstone Homes for sponsoring our most recent event, which has encouraged lots of young people to learn important water survival skills and general beach safety.

"Beaches such as Llantwit Major and Barry Island have very strong currents and children have to be strong swimmers to be safe.

"Courses such as these, and basic awareness, can go a long way towards saving lives, and I urge more people in their local area to get involved in a lifesaving club near them, whatever their age."

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Equality Forum hits at disability benefits 'myths'



ABOVE: Pupils at Brynteg Comprehensive School. (See story below). Left to right: Ocean Hughes, Kate Keohane, Jonathan Evans, Mamoon Ahmed and Matthew Bird.

Bridgend Food Bank
I HEAR that the Food Bank has again had a large increase in unfortunate people struggling to feed themselves.

In April and May, it supplied 1,346 people, made up of 918 adults and 428 children – a frightening increase of 144 per cent.

If you wish to volunteer to help or make donation, telephone 01656 858713, or e-mail bridgendfoodbank@aol.com.

Home-Start Bridgend
THIS charity supports parents with young children who are struggling to provide adequate support to their offspring – for a number of reasons, such as illness, injury, disability, mental health, bereavement or relationship problems.

It is looking for caring volunteers who have parental experience to work with families.

Call Home-Start on 01656 668111, or e-mail homestartbridge@btconnect.com.

Cream tea ST BRIDE'S Church, Llansantffraid, will hold a cream tea on Saturday, August 10, at 2.30pm; £4 per person.

Legion service
THE Royal British Legion, Maesteg, is organising a service for the dedication and opening of a garden of remembrance in the grounds of St David's Church, Maesteg, at 11am next Saturday, August 10.

With the Rev Geraldine Blyth conducting, the service is expected to last for 30 minutes. Everyone is welcome to come along and show their respects to those who paid the ultimate price in fighting for the freedom of the nation.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
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email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Ladies choir
CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Maesteg Ladies Choir) is holding its annual concert in Maesteg town hall on September 20 under musical director Paul Deenik-Bradley, with accompanist Laura Smith.

Paul has also been appointed musical director of the Ynysbwl Ladies and Caerphilly Male Voice choirs.

The Maesteg choir rehearses in Celtic Rugby Football Club, Garth, on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, and new members are welcome.

Church concert
ST MICHAEL'S and All Angels Church, Maesteg, will hold a concert on September 12 at 7pm. Music will be provided by the Bridgend 'Big Band'.

Mixed voice choir. Noteworthy, which does so much for charity, will be performing from its large repertoire and the soloist for the evening is well-known soprano Sally Ann Kingsbury. BBC presenter Rebecca John is the compere.

Tickets are £6 and £5 (with concessions), and all money raised goes towards the church restoration fund.

MENSA test
A GROUP of pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School were recently invited to take the MENSA High IQ test.

Membership into MENSA is offered to anyone achieving a score in the top two per cent of the population.

Sixteen pupils awarded entry into the society, joining the 22 members who were accepted into MENSA last year.

Horeb Chapel
THE chapel members are organising an interesting event tomorrow (August 9) from 4.30pm to 6.30pm for children aged five to 11.

It will be holding a holiday Bible club with a difference; the children will be encouraged to become junior secret agents engaged on a special mission to discover clues about the King of Kings.

The children will also enjoy crafts and games prizes at the Nantymoel chapel.

Glynogwr Show

THIS year, Glynogwr show is being held in Hughes Field below Pwyllyfelin Farm, and the entrance is at the White bridge on A4093 Giffach to Blackmill Road on Saturday (August 10).

The show starts at 11am and there will be a variety of events and displays.

Included will be gymkhana and horse show jumping, dog and horticulture shows.

There will also be arts and crafts displays, children's section, home produce and a number of stalls representing local organisations.

Southerndown golfer misses out on title

SOUTHERNDOWN golfer Mike Hearne lost out in the final of the Welsh Amateur Championship last weekend – but has the consolation of being selected for Wales in the Home International Championships.

Jack Bush (Morlais Castle) clinched the title in emphatic fashion at Ashburnham, gaining the biggest win of his career to cap a fine week on the west Wales links.

He beat fellow Wales international Hearne, an America-based student, 9 and 8 in the 36-hole final with some exceptional golf.

Southerndown's Hearne was naturally disappointed with the result in the final, but was pleased overall with his week.

He said: "I achieved my big goals for the week – to reach the later stages – and to reach my first ever final of the Welsh Amateur was more than I could have hoped for at the start.

"This week I have played some of

the best golf I have ever played," said the 22-year-old, who is on a golf scholarship at the Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma.

"Jack was around seven under for the holes we played in the final, so he deserved his win. Now we can look forward to the Home Internationals which was another of my targets.

"My coach John Howells was back from Dubai, where he works in the Butch Harman school, and he was able to help me a lot."

Hearne came through the top half of the draw where number one seed Rhys Pugh went out in the first round. Pugh will miss the Home Internationals, as he will be competing in the US Amateur championships.

Wales Home Internationals team: David Boote (Walton Heath), Jack Bush (Morlais Castle), Zach Galliford (Borth and Ynyslas), Mike Hearne (Southerndown), Richard James (Aberystwyth), Alistair Jones (Radry), Lee Jones (Conwy), Craig Melding (Neath), Matthew Moseley (Carmarthen), Jason Shuffeletham (Prestatyn), Ben Westgate (Treviso).

RIGHT: Bridgend Equality Forum shows off the new disability benefits myth-busting leaflet.



A 'MYTH-BUSTING' leaflet which sets the record straight on common misconceptions about people claiming disability benefits, is being backed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The Bridgend Equality Forum leaflet includes a range of real-life stories of disabled people living in the county borough who claim disability benefits.

In a bid to fight 'scrounger-style' criticisms, it explains why people receive these benefits, what they need to spend them on, and how being disabled can make everyday life more expensive.

The council's deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, who is also the council's equalities champion and chair of Bridgend Equalities Forum, said: "You often hear people bandying about comments about swathes of 'welfare fraudsters' claiming disability benefits, but these views are ignorant, harmful and untrue.

"Views like these often provide the roots

from which disability hate crimes grow.

"As the council's equalities champion, and chair of Bridgend Equality Forum, I am determined to help weed out these damaging attitudes and let the truth blossom.

"Through distributing this leaflet, the forum hopes to increase people's awareness of the issues faced by disabled people, and improve the relationship between disabled and non-disabled people living in Bridgend county borough."

The chair of the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, Simon Green, who also sits on Bridgend Equality

Forum, said: "We appreciate that some disabilities are more visible than others but people shouldn't jump to conclusions based on what they see.

GENUINE CLAIMS

"Government figures show that over 99.5 per cent of people claiming Disability Living Allowance are genuinely entitled to receive it, and couldn't live, work or support themselves without it.

"Disability Living Allowance is designed to help disabled people who can work to stay in work, and enable them to socialise and be active members of the community.

"In many cases, if disabled people didn't claim these benefits, they wouldn't be able to work at all and would actually need to claim larger sums of other benefits to get by."

The disability benefits 'myth-busting' leaflet is on display at community venues across Bridgend county borough, and is also available in a range of accessible formats on the equalities pages of the council's website at www.bridgend.gov.uk

For more information about the leaflet or Bridgend Equality Forum contact the council's Equalities team by emailing equalities@bridgend.gov.uk.

Llamau is one of town Mayor's chosen charities

LLAMAU has announced that the new Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Michael Clarke, has chosen it as one of his charities for his year in office.

Coun Clarke has been a keen fundraiser in recent years, particularly for Llamau's Ty Cornell project in Porthcawl, a project for young homeless people aged 16-17.

Coun Clarke said: "In thinking about my charities for this year, I decided to concentrate on three organisations who provide help and support to people in Porthcawl at a time that they experience a life 'crisis'.

"Llamau is one such organisation and while their work supports more than just young people, it is particularly the support they give young people coming out of care who face a significant 'life crisis' in that they are effectively homeless.

"The work that Llamau does in providing the security of temporary accommodation, backed up by training, advice and vital support to enable them to live independent lives, helping them get a flat of their own, furnishing and the advice and support to manage their finances contributes substantially to their becoming good citizens and having a future.

"I am also impressed by the dedication shown by staff and volunteers who deliver the services needed."

Llamau's chief executive, Frances Beecher, who said:

"Coun Clarke has been an active supporter of ours for quite some time and we are honoured that he has elected us as one of his chosen charities.

"We look forward to working closely with him over the next year."

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Activists promising 'Balcombe-style' action to keep the Vale free of fracking

CAMPAIGNERS in the Vale are saying that Balcombe-type protests could happen – if fracking comes to the area.

On Wednesday, July 31, anti-fracking groups from across south Wales met in Bridgend, to co-ordinate their efforts and build the 'Frack Free Wales' coalition.

A spokeswoman told The GEM: "The meeting was well-attended and the local 'Vale Says No (VSN)' campaign

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

was represented by Louise Evans, founder of VSN, Michaela Richter and Rob McGhee of Transition Cowbridge, Denis Campbell, journalist and presenter of the World View Show and Andy Chyba of the Bridgend Green Party, who is a spokesman of VSN."

She said that Frances Twms Jenkins, from the group 'Frack Free Wales', had talked about her arrest at the protest against the energy com-

pany, Cuadrilla, at an exploratory drill site in Balcombe, West Sussex.

The spokeswoman continued: "Local groups are concerned about the lack of regulations in place for the industry. Environmental concerns are too great to be ignored."

"Statistics show that all gas wells will leak at some point, and some 6 per cent will leak from the moment they're in the ground."

"Also, what people

don't know is that these processes involve a massive network of drilling sites and gas pipes, not just one individual bore hole.

"The Vale Says No is disappointed by local landowners selling their land or striking deals with the energy company Coastal Oil and Gas."

"The meeting in Bridgend included documentaries and presentations about successful anti-fracking campaigns in NSW, Australia and Somerset, and an action plan for the SW coalition of Frack Free Wales."

She added: "Anyone who wants to be informed of what is happening locally, or to get involved, should e-mail louise@thevalesaysno.com

"Llantrithyd 'Villagers Against Drilling', another local anti-fracking group has started an e-petition against some of the landlords."

Man rescued from Nash Point

TWO RNLI lifeboats from Porthcawl were launched on Saturday (July 27) to help a man who was cut off by the tide close to Nash Lighthouse.

He was unsure of his exact location, not being familiar with the area, and the volunteer RNLI crew searched the sea, while Coastguards searched the cliff top, a spokesman reported.

The conditions were rough, with breaking surf – so RAF helicopter 169 was also asked to attend in case it was too dangerous for the lifeboat to bring the casualty to safety.

"The man was quickly located and Porthcawl's inshore RNLI lifeboat veered skilfully back close to the rocks, enabling the man to be recovered."

"The inshore lifeboat transferred the casualty to the larger and faster Atlantic 85 lifeboat, to return him to the safety of Porthcawl boat-house," the spokesman added.

COUNCIL HITS BACK AS... Tory leader attacks 'lavish' redundancy payment packages

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

THE Leader of the Conservatives in the Welsh Assembly, has attacked the Vale Council over the level of voluntary redundancy payments – claiming that they have jumped by more than 50 per cent in one year.

The information was obtained following a request by Mr Andrew RT Davies, under the Freedom of Information Act.

However, he received an instant response from the Vale Council, disagreeing strongly.

It was revealed that the council paid out £285,470 last year (2012/13), up from just £185,605 in the previous Conservative administration's last year in power.

Describing them as "lavish and unnecessary", the AM said it could not be explained by the number of people taking voluntary redundancy, as the numbers in 2012/13 were 21, compared to 20 the previous year.

He said: "You have to question the Labour council's priorities when they can find almost £300,000 to fund golden handshakes when, at the same time, we are seeing vital public services like bus routes being withdrawn on a weekly basis."

He claimed that average individual pay-outs have gone up from £9,280 under the previous Conservative administration.

They will be included in a specially-designed Penarth Women's Trail, with a map identifying significant places and telling of their lives.

Bev Noon, operational manager at the Vale Council, said: "Last year we recognised women in Barry through the Barry Women's Trail."

"As well as recognising the individual women, the trail will provide a very interesting urban walk. We hope that both visitors and residents will take advantage of the health-promoting advantages of walking, as well as using local shops and cafes."

"We already have a growing list, including Maty Glynn, Ray Howard-Jones, Constance Maillard, Kathleen Thomas and Millicent Mackenzie. We'd like to hear about other notable women from Penarth who deserve recognition."

Contact banoon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or at the Civic Offices, Holt Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

cost of £11,631.05.

"If Mr Davies does not support his Conservative colleagues in the decisions they made, then I suggest he takes that up with them directly."

"Redundancy payments are based on the early retirement and redundancy scheme which was agreed by the Conservative cabinet in June 2008. The scheme provides for payments well below the maximum allowed by regulations, with a maximum of 49.5 weeks pay or £30k."

"The council has had to make considerable savings to balance its budget and these redundancies will deliver significant savings year on year, with the senior management restructuring approximately saving £500,000 per annum."

"As we go forward we will continue as a council to strive to live within today's tough financial climate – due to cuts implemented by the Westminster Government."

"The council uses measures to avoid redundancies by redeploying staff wherever possible."

LETTERS EXTRA

Porthkerry stream clearance: 'thank you for your help'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's environmental health and pollution control department would like to thank all those who gave up their time to volunteer in helping with the stream clearance at Porthkerry Park on July 6.

Firstly, thank you to the rangers at Porthkerry who helped in organising the event, providing all of the equipment and taking part on the day.

The rangers gave up their time from Cosmeston Lakes and cleared a large and tricky area of one of the streams; pollution technicians from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water; officers from Natural Resources Wales.

The youth offending service cleared a large area; Sea Cadets offered invaluable help and every other volunteer who turned up to help in clearing the streams.

And let's not forget Coun Rob Curtis, who gave up a couple of hours in the morning before heading off to the Scout fete. He is also the chair of Friends of Barry beaches.

I hope that everybody enjoyed the day and look forward to taking part again. Thank you all again.

Rebecca Athay (Environmental Health Officer).

FUN DAY AT SULLY

I SYMPATHISE with KATHRYN Sweeney (GEM letters) concerning the lack of play facilities for children in Sully.

She and other mums may be interested to know that Sully Christian Fellowship is organising a fun day and barbecue on Saturday, August 17 from 4pm at 27 South Road.

There will be a bouncy castle and a talent competition (Sully's Got Talent) for children under 14 years, who must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free. Burgers cost £1.50 and hot dogs, £1.

Entry forms for talent competition available from either Mr and Mrs Roberts, 123 Arlington Road, or by email, sully-christianfellowship@gm.ail.com, to be returned by 6pm, on August 16.

Mrs Hilary Williams, Sully.

Paying tribute to women of Penarth!

IN celebration of International Women's Day 2014, women from Penarth who have made a significant contribution to public life are being recognised.

They will be included in a specially-designed Penarth Women's Trail, with a map identifying significant places and telling of their lives.

Bev Noon, operational manager at the Vale Council, said: "Last year we recognised women in Barry through the Barry Women's Trail."

"As well as recognising the individual women, the trail will provide a very interesting urban walk. We hope that both visitors and residents will take advantage of the health-promoting advantages of walking, as well as using local shops and cafes."

"We already have a growing list, including Maty Glynn, Ray Howard-Jones, Constance Maillard, Kathleen Thomas and Millicent Mackenzie. We'd like to hear about other notable women from Penarth who deserve recognition."

Contact banoon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or at the Civic Offices, Holt Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Viewpoint panel for residents

RESIDENTS are being invited to share their views on local issues by joining the Vale Viewpoint panel.

It has nearly 1,000 members, and receives surveys on behalf of the Local Service Board, which also includes the police, fire service, health board and voluntary groups.

"The panel provides Vale residents with an easy but meaningful way to influence the decisions that affect them," a Vale Council spokesperson said.

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LOCAL ROTARIANS' 'PORK IN THE PARK' BARBECUE RAISES £800 FOR CHARITIES



ABOVE: Phil Hunt and family.

THE Rotary Club of Barry's first fundraising event of the new Rotary year has been hailed as a 'great success!'

A 'Pork in the Park' barbecue at the Welsh Hawking Centre, Barry, organized by past president Griff on August 2 was supported by over 100 people.

A flying display, courtesy of Griff and Jamie, of the Hawking Centre, with some audience participation, marked the beginning of a memorable evening.

This was followed by a sumptuous barbecue cooked by Griff, who proudly wore his new personalised chef's hat!

Even heavy rain, thunder and lightning failed to dampen spirits, and a well-supported raffle brought the total raised for Rotary charities to more than £800.

Newly-elected president Peter Battle was 'delighted' and thanked everyone, particularly Griff, his wife Norma, hawking cen-

tre staff, and fellow Rotarians.

The Welsh Hawking Centre, located on Five Mile Lane, near to Weycock Cross in Barry, is open daily (except Tuesdays) and well worth a visit.

On August 21, the Barry Club will be at the Vale Show in Fommon, supporting Stroke Awareness.

Free blood pressure tests will be available to everyone attending the show - along with a fundraising stall.

The club continues to make much-needed monthly donations to the Vale Food Bank in Barry and plans are already in hand for the annual fireworks fiesta on November 5 at Barry Island.

Rotary has over one million members worldwide who form a global network of business, professional and community volunteers.

Barry Rotarians meet in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays (6pm for 6.30pm).

For further information, speak to president Peter Battle on 01446 710204, or look online at www.ribi.org



'TRUE COST OF THE EU'

A GAIN, we have a response from John Owen (The GEM August 1) that tells us what the press tells us is wrong with the EU, rather than tell us how we are going to manage on our own as a trading nation if we leave the EU.

He repeats the line that the EU costs the UK £45 million per day. This is not true.

The figure quoted is the amount we pay into the EU each day and takes no account of the money that comes back in the form of CAP payments to Welsh farmers, industrial regeneration, and capital spending grants to the Welsh and UK governments, and a myriad of other ways.

It's been calculated that the net cost to the UK of EU membership is between £3-4 billion per annum.

I hold no truck with the bureaucracy of the EU but to bandy around the usual adjectives 'unelected' and 'unaccountable' is again a distortion of the facts.

He refers to the social costs of pensions, which are not set by Europe, National Insurance, which is not set by Europe and which pays for the state pension and the NHS, maternity leave, which was introduced by the UK government and altered by Europe, to give more benefits to pregnant women and after their babies were born.

Small businesses can claim a rebate from the government if they incur redundancy costs, which partially covers their outlay.

This did not originate in Brussels, we have had redundancy payments for years.

David Kennett, Barry



ABOVE: Former Rotary president Griff does the carving.

BELOW: Paul Halstead and family.



SECOND NOVEL

THE sequel to Vale author Jonathan Hicks' first novel 'The Dead of Mametz' was published by Y Lolfa on July 16, entitled 'Demons Walk Among Us', the second in the Thomas Oscendale series.

The historian's forthcoming book on Barry's role in the Second World War will contain the results of six years' research.

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'Gentleman' Tony retires after completing 8,000 home repairs



ABOVE: Tony and his familiar van on his last day at work. (The photo was taken discreetly—as he didn't want any fuss!)

GOOD wishes go to popular 'handyperson' Anthony 'Tony' Richards who retired as handyperson of Care and Repair in the Vale on July 17 after completing over 8,000 home repairs for older people.

Tony has worked at Care and Repair in the Vale for 10 years, making a difference to the lives of older people by repairing, maintaining and adapting their homes.

He worked over the whole of the county but his main area was in the west of the Vale.

As a result of Tony's highly-regarded work, older people have contacted Care and Repair in the Vale to say that they now feel safer, more confident and more secure undertaking their daily activities in their

home.

Comments from customers include: "Tony is one of the most polite and informative gentlemen I have met," and, "I always look forward to seeing him; he's such a nice, kind gentleman and does a wonderful job."

Richard Thomas, Manager at Care and Repair in the Vale said:

"Although Tony wanted to retire without any fuss, Care and Repair in the Vale simply couldn't allow him to leave without informing his many customers."

"He always went above the call of duty and never really switched off from his work."

"In his retirement, he will get much-deserved leisure time and can focus on his own home now. Good luck Tony, in your retirement, from all of us."

Inspirational Homes and Gardens

How to make your garden more drought resistant!

OUR sweltering July probably prompted many gardeners to reach for the hosepipe – writes HANNAH STEPHENSON.

In fact, according to The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), less than 3 per cent of the annual water consumption of an average household is estimated to be from

garden use, but at peak times as much as 70 per cent of water supplied may be used in gardens.

This doesn't have to be the case though. Rainwater collected in water butts, waste water from the kitchen and grey water from the bathroom can all be used to water plants.

Or, maybe, the ultimate solution is simply to create a garden that doesn't need much watering in the first

place. This doesn't mean creating a desert garden devoid of colour.

Dramatic flowerbeds can easily be achieved from plants that have very low moisture and maintenance demands.

Many drought-resistant plants naturally form communities of plants which all thrive in the same conditions and come from similar Mediterranean habitats.

At the front of the border, you could have dwarf lavender, Sedum spectabile, lamb's ears and ornamental grass such as stipa tenuissima, while middle-sized drought-resistant plants include Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus', Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve' (wallflower), Russian sage and Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant' (cat-mint).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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Dinas Windows mark their 25th anniversary

CELEBRATING 25 years in business this month, Dinas Windows Ltd are still achieving the high standards that their customers have come to expect over the years.

Co-founders, directors and brothers Jonathan and Nicholas Madge, together with their friendly staff, work hard to provide their valued customers with the products they require.

Windows, doors and conservatories are all manufactured on site at the firm's premises on the Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, off Cardiff Road in Barry.

Directors Jon and Nick Madge said: "We try and stay competitive and do our best to offer a good service. The majority of our work comes from recommendations – and we would therefore like to thank our customers, past and present, for supporting Dinas Windows and hope they will continue to do so in the future."

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

At the back of the border you could use species more than 1.8m tall, including *Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple', *Choisya ternata* (Mexican orange blossom) and *Trachelospermum jasminoides*.

Most drought-tolerant plants will have either aromatic leaves, fleshy and succulent leaves (which store moisture for dry spells), grey leaves, hairy leaves (which shade themselves with their own hairs), long narrow leaves (which are good at shedding heat without water), or spikes (which act as 'fins' to cool the

plant). The RHS offers these extra tips to create a more drought-resistant, but still attractive, garden:

- Cultivate the soil deeply and dig in large quantities of organic matter to improve soil structure, water retention and water availability for plants.

- Well-rotted garden compost, mushroom compost, composted bark and well-rotted farmyard manure are all suitable forms of organic matter.

- Heavy manuring can add nearly a month's worth of water storage capacity to the soil. Loam-based potting compost doesn't dry out as quickly as peat-free

composts. If using peat-free, water-retaining gels might have some benefit.

- Apply sufficient fertiliser as plants use water most efficiently where nutrient levels are adequate. But do not apply too much fertiliser to the soil, as this can encourage too much lush growth which can flop in summer, requiring extra watering and becoming frost-damaged in winter.

- Choose plants with grey-green or silver leaves as they reflect the sun's rays, helping to conserve moisture within the plant tissues.

- Try to choose plants which suit the site's soil type and aspect. They will be

more tolerant of varying climatic conditions, as well as of pest and disease problems.

- Plant things while they are still small. They will develop much greater resilience as they adapt to their conditions from a young age.

Ideally, plant in autumn so they can do some growing before dry weather arrives.

- If planting Mediterranean plants, do so in spring when the soil is warming up. Many of these plants will suffer from root-rot if planted in autumn and become cold and damp over winter.

- Before planting, thoroughly soak the plants in their pots in a

bucket of water until the bubbles stop rising to the surface.

- Thoroughly 'water in' all new plants (and

keep them watered in the first season after planting to ensure they establish well).

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TROPICAL PARADISE with 40,000 balloons at Cardiff Bay!

THE UK's biggest Balloon Art Festival is returning to Cardiff Bay for the second time on Saturday and Sunday, August 18-19, bringing world class instructors and award-winning sculptors to Wales, to create a helium-filled tropical paradise.

Following the success of the 2011 festival, Cardiff Bay's popular entertainment destination, The Red Dragon Centre, has again teamed up with Barry-based company, Doctor Bob Balloons, to transform the centre into a spectacular Paradise Island, featuring tropical animals, plants and an 18 foot giraffe, all made entirely of balloons. The event is free for all to attend.

Actor Jay Ruckley, who stars as the mischievous grandfather in popular CBeebies programme Grandpa in My Pocket, will officially open the event on August 17, and will be available to sign autographs for fans at 12pm.

Throughout the weekend, a team of Doctor Bob's staff will also be on hand from 12pm-5pm, to meet and greet visitors and to talk about their creations. The festival highlights

will include a giraffe, over 18 feet tall, made up of 3,000 mocha brown balloons and over 2,000 goldenrod balloons.

The festival will use 40,000 balloons and 30 litres of nitrogen; 12 skilled balloon artists will be working alongside Doctor Bob and his staff to create a tropical paradise, totalling more than 1,500 man hours.

"Balloons will be 100 per cent Qualatex biodegradable latex balloons that decompose at the same rate as an oak leaf," a spokesperson explained.

Dr Bob Armstrong founded Doctor Bob's Balloons in 1995, and has since travelled all over the world with his balloons. He said: "We have seen festivals like this in Italy, Malaysia and Dallas for years and it's great that we're able to bring the festival to Wales for a second time and to host it at the Red Dragon Centre."

Emma Constantinou, marketing manager for the Red Dragon Centre said: "We're really excited that the Balloon Art Festival is returning for 2013, and to be working with Doctor Bob's Balloons again after such a successful festival in 2011."

"This year's theme is going to be great and we can't wait to welcome visitors into our balloon-



Lili Hunter and Mabli Sachs, both aged four, admire the clown fish.

RIGHT: Robert Armstrong of Dr Bob's Balloons, creators of the balloon sculptures.

made Paradise Island – you never know what you're going to get with the British summer, so this year we're bringing it indoors!

"The sculptures will sit alongside our great attractions, including our state-of-the-art cinema, restaurants, gym, casino, and bowling alley, offering a great day out for all ages."

The team will also be creating a balloon sculpture of a giant palm tree and toucan in a deck chair, drawn by Amira Arish (9) from Murch Junior School in Dinas Powys, who was the winner of the Red Dragon Centre's design competition.

"The balloons used are environmentally friendly, taking only six months to



A spokesperson said: "The previous festival in 2011, was the first of its kind in the UK, and attracted over 35,000 visitors in three days. 30,000 balloons and over 680 hours of work were involved in turning the centre into an underwater kingdom."

"The balloons used are environmentally friendly, taking only six months to

bio-degrade."

For more information visit www.thereddragoncentre.co.uk.

Follow @RedDragonCentre on Twitter or 'like' The Red Dragon Centre on Facebook. Visitors are advised that the Centre's usual car park procedures still apply – free for Centre customers with minimum spend purchase).

Laser technique to treat cancer

A WOMAN from Ogmere Vale is among skin cancer patients benefiting from a laser technique, developed by ABMU plastic surgeons, which removes the cancer, usually without leaving a scar.

The technique targets Nodular Basal Cell Carcinomas, which are cancerous skin lesions or tumours visible on the skin.

The cancer isn't usually aggressive and rarely spreads.

Traditional treatments, such as skins creams, freezing of the lesions or radiotherapy, may need multiple applications to remove the cancer. Also, some treatments, for example surgery, can leave a scar.

Staff based at the Welsh Centre of Burns and Plastics Surgery at Morriston Hospital developed a treatment which combines two laser techniques.

Annette Cabbie, from Ogmere Vale, has been treated with laser treatment and surgery for different lesions:

"I had to have surgery for a growth on my ear, which meant having part of the ear removed and a skin graft. I've since had



PICTURED: Annette Cabbie, from Ogmere Vale receives laser treatment for a facial lesion from Leanne Greenslade, health care support worker; Barbara O'Leary, clinical nurse specialist; Max Murison, consultant plastic surgeon.

laser treatment on my leg and my face and I much prefer it.

"It is a lot less invasive and it is quicker. Also, I don't worry or stress about the procedure as I would if it was

an operation. I am really pleased with the results of the laser treatment, as I don't usually have a scar or mark afterwards. Also, the staff really look after me while in their care", she added.

DIABETES TALK

VALE of Glamorgan Diabetes UK voluntary group's next meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 20 in the board room, at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, from 7.30pm – 9pm.

The speaker will be a psychologist, Dr Katie Thirlaway. Everyone is welcome.

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GHOSTLY TALES with HAYLEY WILLIAMS

Phantom figure who waves to passersby from her carriage

AUGUST is the eighth month on the Gregorian calendar – before this, Sextilis was the sixth month of the Roman datebook.

Eight years prior to the birth of Christ, the month adopted the name Augustus, which was named after the Emperor Augustus Caesar.

The Anglo Saxons called August Wood, which means weed, as all plant life grows at a more rapid pace at this time of the year.

The birthstone of August is the peridot, and its honourable flower, the gladiolus, adding to the fascination of such a colourful month.

August has a few memorable occasions which changed the way of the world, such as the celebration of the Welsh National Eisteddfod (which dates back to 1176) during the first week of the month.

This tradition was originally a medieval gathering of bards and minstrels, who competed for the Noble's Chair with a festival of Welsh art and culture.

The Battle of Bosworth began on August 22, 1483; World War I began on August 4, 1914; Francis Chichester left Plymouth on Gypsy Moth VI on August 27 in 1966; and our Queen of Hearts, Princess Diana, was killed in a car crash on August 31.

The first day of August was traditionally known as Lammas

Day – the thanksgiving for the harvest crops where loaves of bread were baked by farmers from the wheat of the first crop and laid on church altars for Holy Communion.

Lammas Day was celebrated with a festival where farmers would also present their work-force with a pair of gloves.

One white glove would be placed on a decorated pole to mark the beginning of the celebration, which lasted for 11 days.

It was the festival of love and the foretelling of marriage, and luck would fall on any couple whose love blossomed throughout the duration of the fair.

Farmers would also let the bread from the first corn go stale, so that they could sprinkle its crumbs into each corner of their barn as a symbol of good luck.

This custom ended abruptly under Henry VIII's reign, as he broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. Lammas Day was renamed Holy Christian Day, and the Harvest Festival was forwarded to the following month of September.

The Celtic harvest season was called Lughnasadh, after the Celtic sun god Lugh, and corn dollies were made to mark the occasion.

The hottest days of the year are said to happen throughout August, according to Weatherlore, and an old saying was repeated during festivals: "Dry August and warmth doth harvest no harm. The first week

of August be warm, the winter will be white and long."

The summer bank holiday was introduced under the Bank Holidays Act in 1871. The intention was to give bank employees time off work to attend cricket matches on the first day of the month. One hundred years later in 1971, it was moved to the last Monday in August.

Customs relating to devil dancing were traditional during olden times, but these were banned by Puritans following the Civil War.

In Middle Ages, rushes were used as floor covering, and villages throughout the land would hold a special summer ceremony on the nearest Saturday to the fifth.

Rushes were harvested for the ritual, and carpets and sculptures (called bearings) were carried by a procession to people's houses.

Coracle races were held around riverbanks during the middle stages of the month. These mostly involved fishing skills, with the catching of salmon and trout, which are noted to be moving upstream from the sea.

With so many legends and eerie tales alike encompassing the southern counties of Wales, could the month of August hide a multitude of ghostly beings waiting to pounce during the eighth month of the year?

On the first Monday of August, around the ruins of kennels at Pwllwyrach in

Colwinston, eerie screams and cries at midnight can be heard bellowing out across the land each year. These pitiful sounds are said to be from a huntsman who went on a drinking binge for many days, leaving his hounds unattended in the kennels, and doomed to starve.

On his return, the angry hounds tore him to pieces. To this day, ghostly mastiffs of hell hounds howl and bay in union with the huntsman's screams around the ruined kennels.

Zig Zag lane in Porthcawl is no stranger to the haunting sight of a coach and horses tearing along at pace.

Legend maintains that the coach driver and his female passenger tragically died after he lost control of his coach, overturning in the darkness.

The phantom figure of a lady dressed in white clothing appears to wave at witnesses from a carriage before the whole scene disappears into oblivion.

Could this be a re-enactment of the tragic incident from days gone by – or just an elusive trick of the imagination?

But fact or fiction? It's up to you to decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com
GHOSTLY TALK...

There will be a Ghost Talk and Walk as part of Porthcawl Sea Festival on Sunday, August 11, at the Swan Inn, Nottage, at 6pm. All are welcome to come and join in the fun! (£2.50 per person).

Group pays poignant visit to Normandy's wartime battlefields



ON a recent four-day visit to the Normandy battlefields, the 'Back Tuesday' group based at the Plough and Harrow, Monknash, paid their respects at a number of graves of local men, who were killed in the D-Day campaign during World War Two.

At Bayeux cemetery, the group visited the grave of Glyn David Lougher, of Marcross, who died on June 27, 1944. Glyn served with the Reconnaissance Corps, RAC, 49th (West Riding) Regiment.

He was 19 when he was killed and was the son of David and Ann Lougher, of Marcross.

A wreath, and pebbles from Marcross beach were laid on behalf of the group by John Lougher, of Tylantglwst Farm who gave a short talk to the group about Glyn Lougher.

At Camber-en-Plein cemetery, north of Caen, the group paid their respects to John Rowdan James, who was killed on July 8, 1944, while serving with the South Staffordshire

Regiment. The remembrance was led by his son John James, who lives in Coychurch.

John was born two days after his father was killed and has visited the grave on several occasions.

All the group members felt that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission do a fantastic job in maintaining the cemeteries to such a high standard.

On the ferry back, by a strange coincidence the group met veterans of the South Staffordshire regiment, who return to the area every year on the anniversary of the battle for Caen, where their regiment suffered such high casualties.

John James was able to talk to the veterans who are in their late 80s and 90s, one of whom had known John's father.

This was a really poignant and emotional moment.

During the weekend, the group were able to visit all five landing beaches, Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

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Out and About with The GEM

GOSLING'S LATEST WILL CERTAINLY DIVIDE CINEMA AUDIENCE!

THERE are few cooler movies that have been released this century than *Drive*.

The tale of a getaway driver and his burgeoning relationship with his next door neighbour was effortlessly ice-cold and arguably made Ryan Gosling the coolest man on the planet.

Gosling has reteamed with that film's director, Nicolas Winding Refn, for *Only God Forgives*, which sees Gosling play Julian, a drug-smuggler in Bangkok, whose life gets even more complicated when his mother (Kristin Scott Thomas) tasks him with finding and killing the man responsible for killing his brother, something that will push Julian to the edge...

When *Only God Forgives* premiered earlier this year at the Cannes Film Festival, the response was a chorus of boos and jeers, rather than the standing ovations that you usually hear of from the south of France.

Watching it, you can see where the audience

was coming from, the work a woozy fever dream of a film where plotting and character development take a backseat to imagery and suggestion.

However, if you are willing to buy into Nicholas Winding Refn's vision, and let the film wash over, then you may just find yourself being seduced by *Only God Forgives'* obtuse charm.

While *Drive* was a cool, efficient thriller that did what it did with great economy, this time around the focus is less on Gosling as a leading man, and more as part of an ensemble that constantly pushes and pulls away from the film's structure.

Lensing Bangkok with an eye for the darker recesses of the area, Refn's direction is slow-burning, measured and meaning than it does with hurrying the story along.

It looks gorgeous, the occasional visceral violence having even more impact when snapping the film out of its dreamy feel, yet it never

rushes along, sticking resolutely to its own pacing.

It's a similar situation for the story, where whys and hows are foregone; Refn is saying something about the arrogance of the stranger in a strange land, and the nature of parent-child relationships, but if you need explanation and exposition, then don't look for it here.

Gosling spends much of the film looking mean and moody in a variety of lights, but it shows his magnetism that his performance is impressive despite the lack of dialogue and backstory, the character torn between pleasing his overbearing mother and living his own life.

Said mother is played by Kristin Scott Thomas, who delivers a performance a million miles away from expectations, the bleached-blond, foul-mouthed woman a fair distance away from her usual work, and going against type pays great dividends.

Vithaya Pansringarm makes up the lead tri-umvirate as the police chief keeping an eye on Julian and his mother, whose own brand of justice involves a sharp sword, and it is a startling, powerful performance by the actor, one that easily steals the show from his esteemed colleagues, his performance lingering long after the credits.

Despite this fulsome praise, *Only God Forgives* isn't an easy film to love and should be approached mindful of its lack of story and depth; many will no doubt find the film too slow and unengaging. But if you fancy something of a challenge, then it is certainly worth a try, a dark, disembod-



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

ied picture that will stay with you.

VERDICT - Very much a 'Marmite' film, *Only God Forgives* will anger as many people as it will please. Nicholas Winding Refn's wilfully difficult work can't be approached too casually, but with some stunning moments it will reward those willing to stick with it. **Recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Drive* (2011), *Bronson* (2008).

Flying priest is back in Barry

THIS Sunday (August 11) there is the chance in Barry, to hear a priest who in recent months has been flown by RAF jet to take charge of churches of the South Atlantic

Island of St Helena and sailed on the paddle steamer *Waverley*, to lead Evensong on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel.

Father Roy Dooxey was, until one year ago, Vicar of the Church of St German in Cardiff. His life as a priest has included the amazing contrasts of serving in the poorest and most deprived parts of Africa and as chaplain at an English public school.

He will lead the services, and preach, at the church of Merthyr Dyfan on Sunday at 8.45am and at St Paul's Church, in St Paul's Avenue Barry at 10am. Everyone is welcome

to join the services and meet Father Dooxey, who will be accompanied by his famous Jack Russell terriers, Megan and Jasper, who are great favourites, particularly with all children.

Coychurch Show

WHATEVER the weather throws at gardeners, there is sure to be something worth seeing in Coychurch at

the 37th annual horticultural show, at the Williams Memorial Hall, on Saturday, August 17, at 2pm.

Classes include the usual flowers, vegetables and fruit, along with flower arranging, crafts, preserves and home baking.

A children's competition has also been included this year.

Presentations will be made to the winners of

the best kept front garden competition. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon, and there will be a plant stall for those looking for a 'green' bargain.

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Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw of August 2.

- £2,000: 850759.
- The rollover, which stands at £3,500, was not won this week.
- £10: 477493, 190334, 895762, 832389, 410960, 276397, 395579, 531315, 870507, 412071, 101644, 140826, 485391, 344366, 154624, 712758, 622188, 397955, 221935, 844575.
- £5: 839267, 551844, 568887, 311552, 895465, 365208, 582387, 227469, 790282, 257507, 151829, 155914, 476146, 903669, 292498, 114165, 866041, 199489, 75779, 130643, 751373, 581861, 827789, 536974, 641808, 257572, 606587, 569888, 367138, 524804, 704939, 800491, 309068, 496830, 201596, 524856, 438879, 320968, 890694, 538603, 128654, 165073, 353173, 117463, 575981, 607607, 268513, 716369, 694664, 898202, 293481, 384784, 666375, 525399, 872658, 525159, 287074, 277902, 774586, 000463.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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VOLUNTEERS BRAVE ICE AND SNOW FOR LOCAL CHARITY DURING MOUNTAIN TREK

Photos at Cardiff Airport by Keith E Morgan.
Other photos by members of the 'TOUCHING THE SUN' team.



ABOVE: The Touching the Sun team on Iliniza Norte,

A GROUP of supporters of a Cowbridge-based charity have made it safely home after almost two weeks trekking through snow and ice at high altitude in South America.

The Prostate Cymru 'Touching The Sun' team returned home to Cardiff Airport last Thursday (August 1).

As the photos on this page make clear, although the phrase 'touching the sun' might conjure up images of somewhere warm, in reality the walk was a serious mountain expedition.

The team had to navigate long stretches of snow and ice, and cold weather clothing was essential.

Their mission was to climb five volcanos – one the highest mountain in Ecuador – to raise money for robotic surgery at the University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, as part of the Prostate Cymru 'Touching The Sun' Challenge

In fact, the team were unable to reach the summit of all five, because the highest peak of Chimborazo was impossible to

climb due to the extremely bad weather.

The Prostate Cymru 'band of brothers' (and sisters) were led by Andy Thomas, consultant urologist at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, the co-founder, with the late Ray Murray, of GLAZE and Prostate Cymru.

Andy's team was Sue and Eddie Butler, Martin Caswell, Peter Croke, Nigel Cuthbertson, John Edwards, Wynne Harries, Christine Holme, Andrew Jones, Keith Mort, Matt Murray and Robert Norster.

During the 15-day expedition, they walked through the 'Avenue of Volcanoes', which contains some of the country's highest volcanic peaks.

The team were welcomed home at the airport by family and friends and by Jon Horne, the chief executive of Cardiff Airport.

BELOW:
On the way up Cotopaxi,
the trekkers encountered
a steep ice wall.



ABOVE: The 'Touching the Sun' Team being welcomed home by Jon Horne, the chief executive of Cardiff Airport.



ABOVE:
Sue and Eddie Butler descend Cotopaxi.

RIGHT:
Matt Murray with his mother Lyn scanning
the pages of the GEM to read the report on
the team's departure.



ABOVE: Bob Norster and Andy Thomas on
the summit of Cotopaxi.



ABOVE: Andy Thomas discussing the
expedition with Mrs Lyn Murray, widow of
co-founder Ray Murray.



Remembering the courage and sacrifice of men from the Vale in Year of the Convoy

THE Merchant Navy Association came 'off the slipway' in August 1989 when the newly-formed branches began to raise awareness of the Merchant Navy and, in particular, the dedication and commitment of merchant seafarers during war and conflict.

For the first time, in the year 2000, Merchant Navy veterans marched behind the Royal Navy in Column E, and the Merchant Navy wreath was proudly laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

The wreath, with its unique MN design, joined the 'Red Duster' which had been displayed at the Cenotaph since the memorial was dedicated.

"Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten".

Also in 2000, HM Government approved September 3 as Merchant Navy Day. It was the day that the SS *Athenia* was sunk, just nine hours after Prime Minister Chamberlain declared the outbreak of war on the 'wireless'.

It should also be noted that the last casualties before VE Day were on a Merchant ship, also with the loss of merchant seafarers.

A MN Stamp of Approval

The Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Barry branch has worked for over three years, with many other bodies, in an attempt to gain a Royal Mail 'Stamp of Approval' for, and in tribute to, the men of the British Merchant Navy.

This autumn will see the stamps issued on September 19. The subject looks at 200 years of the British merchant fleet, from the age of sail to the modern bulk carrier and marks the contribution made by the Merchant Service.

Some famous ships are included, such as the *Cutty Sark* and the *Queen Elizabeth*. Also featured are Royal Mail ships, including the renowned *Britannia*, propelled by both steam and sail, it famously made an inaugural voyage for the Cunard line which had the contract to convey the mail.

The miniature sheet, titled 'The Atlantic and Arctic Convoys', focuses on the Merchant Navy's

vital role and sacrifice during the Second World War, when military supplies, foodstuffs and people were transported in large convoys to avoid being sunk by the enemy.

Four black-and-white photographs offer a look at the daily life at sea during this time. 2013 is Year of the Convoy – noting the year when the Battle of the Atlantic reached its height and the German U-boat menace began to be defeated.

The mini sheet will be a tribute to the courage of the personnel of the convoys and the harsh conditions and terrifying risks they faced.

The quote on the mini sheet, from Winston Churchill, is a chilling reminder of these risks – "The only thing ever that really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril".

THE MONTHS OF JULY WORLD WAR 2

On July 15, 1940, the British cargo steamer SS *Bellerophon* was mined and sunk in the middle of the Bristol Channel between Foreland Point and Porthcawl with the loss of 17 lives, including the cook William Piper. William aged 24, was the son of William James Piper and Edith Piper of Barry.

Four days later, the cargo steamer SS *Pearlmoor* was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-62 on July 19. The master and 25 crew members landed at Gola Island in Ireland.

Thirteen members of the crew died, including local men Salih Tabit, Mohamed Masul, Abel Mosham, Mohamed Rajah and third Engineer Officer George Newton.

Also on July 19, 1941, the SS *Holmside* was attacked by the enemy submarine U-66, north-east of the Cape Verde Islands.

During a first attack, the ship had been missed with two stern and two bow torpedoes but it was then hit by three torpedoes and sank within 15 minutes.

Eighteen crew members and three gunners were lost. The master, 13 crew members and two gunners were picked up by the Portuguese steam merchant *Sete Cidades* and landed at Lisbon on August 1.

Barry resident Hazmah Ebanks was lost, he was a son of Albert N and Laura A Ebanks; husband of Nadine W Ebanks, of West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

On July 27, 1941, the



ABOVE: A World War Two poster.

cargo steamer SS *Kelwyn* when en route from Tyne – Oban – Lisbon in Convoy OG-69 was torpedoed by German submarine U-79 and sunk.

The Master, Alexander McLean (son of Daniel and Elizabeth McLean; husband of Annie Mary McLean) of Barry, 10 crew members and three gunners were lost.

Nine crew members were picked up by the British armed trawler HMS *St Nectan* and landed at Gibraltar on August 1.

The SS *Hoihow* was a British cargo steamer of 2,798 tons built in 1933. On July 2, 1943, when en route from Mauritius for Tamatave, she was torpedoed by German submarine U-181 and sunk – 144 persons were lost from a total of 149.

The Chief Engineer Officer George Richard Wensley (son of Joseph Edmonson, the Chief Engineer Officer, and Mary Wensley) a local man, was lost.

A week later, on July 9, the SS *Manchester Citizen*, another British cargo steamer, when en route from Freetown to Lagos in ballast and in Convoy ST-71, was torpedoed by German submarine U-508 (George Staats) and sunk.

A 45-year-old able seaman, Nazzareno Busuttil from Barry, was lost from the *Manchester Citizen*.

The SS *Empire Lake* was a cargo steamer of 2,852 tons built in 1941. On July 15, 1943, when en route from Durban for Aden and Middle East, she was torpedoed by German submarine U-181 and sunk. Thirty one of the crew were lost from a total crew of 38.

Local man Chief Officer Hiram L Brock and the Chief Engineer Officer, Ronald Edward Marr (son of Wellington Best Marr and Lilian Hardy Marr) of Penarth, were lost.

On July 26, 1943, the SS *Fishpool* (2) was sunk in an air raid at Syracuse while discharging ammunition and aviation spirit brought from Alexandria, killing 23 crew, including Barry man Ernest Edmonson, the Chief Engineer Officer, and five DEMS gunners. Eighteen survived.

On July 24, 1944, the British steamship *Portsea* struck a mine and sank off Ancona in the Adriatic. Twenty five of her crew were lost, including local resident Ali Farah. A few days later, on July 29, 1943, the MV *Cornish City*, a

British cargo motor vessel carrying 9,600 tons of coal, was torpedoed by German submarine U-177 and sunk.

Thirty seven of the crew were lost from a total of 43. Her Master, Henry Thomas Isaac aged 48 (son of Thomas and Florence Isaac; husband of Kitty Isaac, of Barry) and Able Seaman Gerald Buttigieg aged 35, another local man, were among those lost.

Cowbridge: The free-standing stone memorial on the edge of the pavement outside Cowbridge Town Hall is dated circa 1921 by the UK National Inventory of War Memorials.

On the face towards the road the inscription reads: *To the memory of the men of this borough who volunteered for active service and gave their lives for King and Country in the great European war 1914 – 1919.*

On the opposite face there is the inscription: *And to the memory of those of this borough who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939 – 1945.*

In 2008, the War Memorials Trust added the name of Stoker Benjamin Hayward RN



The Merchant Navy Memorial in Barry.



ABOVE: Part of the roll call of those lost on the SS Stanleigh.



Cowbridge's war memorial.

(Royal Navy) to the memorial and repainted all the names on the memorial in black enamel.

While the majority of the men commemorated at Cowbridge from the First World War were in the army, the Second World War names are spread between the services to include men from the Royal Air Force and the Mercantile and Royal Navies.

Another Royal Navy Petty Officer, David Morgan John, is remembered on the memorial, along with the many of the armed forces.

The memorial also pays tribute to Thomas John Richards, Merchant Navy, who died on March 14, 1941, age 55. Records show that Thomas was Chief Engineer on the steamship SS *Stanleigh*, in convoy off Liverpool Bay when she was attacked at night by a German aircraft.

She soon sank, rolling so that she destroyed one of her boats full of men. Six men survived on a raft (oil barrels and planks) being picked up after a day afloat.

Thomas is remembered with honour on

Panel 101, Tower Hill Memorial, and at Cowbridge.

Merchant Navy Day is September 3, each year. The annual national commemoration is at Tower Hill, London, this year on Sunday, September 8, and will remember all.

The Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Barry branch will hold its 'annual seafarers' service' during this Year of the Convoy 2013 in September, shortly after the Post Office – Merchant Navy Stamps of approval issue.

JT GREENWAY

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (DURELL STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR) TRAFFIC CALMING 2013

1. Notice is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 90A and C of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended), the provisions contained within The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 and all other enabling powers, proposes to construct traffic calming measures as detailed in the Schedule to this Notice.
2. Full details of the proposals, to include a copy of the drawing (T12/95/MS) may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objection you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (IF713) in writing by the 30th August 2013 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.
3. Persons objecting to the proposed traffic calming are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposal open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

The construction of traffic calming as specified below:
Two 75mm high speed cushions with approximate dimensions:
1.75 metres wide x 1.9 metres long.
The centres being approximately 9 metres and 43 metres north of the junction with Commercial Street.

Dated this 8th day of August 2013

Mr. M.E. Punter
Director of Visible Services and Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2013 GORCHYMYN (ARAFU TRAFFIG) (DURELL STREET, LLANILLTUD FAWR)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 90A ac C Deddf Prifffyrdd 1980 (ddiwgiedig), Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, y darpariaethau yn Rheoliadau Prifffyrdd (Tfwpethau Ffordd) 1999, a phob p. er galluogi arall, yn cymryd y camau i arafu traffig sydd wedi'u hgluglo yn yr atodlen i'r hysbysiad hwn.
2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys copi o'r llun (T12/95/MS) yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes gennych unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (IF713) erbyn 30 Awst 2013 gan nodi'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.
3. Os ydych yn wrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn, y mae'n bwysig cofio bod dyletswydd ar y cyngor o dan Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Haw i Wybodaeth) 1985, i sicrhau bod unrhyw sylw sy'n dod i law mewn ymateb iddo, ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

ATOLDEN

Gosod y deunydd canlynol ar gyfer arafu traffig:
Dwy glustog 75mm ar gyfer arafu traffig tra chylfym sydd oddeutu:
1.75 metr o led ac 1.9 metr o hyd.
Bydd manau canol y rhain yn rhyw 9 metr a 43 metr i'r gogledd o'r gyffordd â Commercial Street.

Dyddiedig 8 Awst 2013

Mr. M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwentfô, CF5 6AA.



CLASSICAL DUO

GUITAR duo, Stephen Biggs and Rachel Buckley will be performing on Sunday, August 11 from 3pm – 5pm for music in the park at Brynagarw House and Country Park, Brynmynen.

Stephen Biggs is an experienced classical guitar player and will be playing Spanish and South American-style music, accompanied by Rachel Buckley, a graduate from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She has been playing and teaching the classical guitar for a number of years.

WO-O-O! watch out for the 'Creepy House'



Council Leader, COUN Mel Nott, cabinet member for children and young people, COUN Huw David, COUN Hailey Townsend and local children Maddy and Finn meet the Creepy House's spooky characters.

HUNDREDS of children in Bridgend County Borough have signed up to a 'spooky summer of frightening fun' by pledging to read six books from their local library – as part of this year's free summer reading challenge.

The theme is 'Creepy House', and Bridgend library and information service is running a series of creepy craft and spooky story activities.

Taking part are: Aberkenfig Library, every Thursday at 10am until August 22; Bridgend Library, every Thursday at 2.15pm until August 29; Pencoed Library, Thursday, August 15 at 2.30pm; Porthcawl Library, every Wednesday at 2.30pm until August 14; Pyle Life Centre, every Thursday at 2.30pm until August 22.

To find out more about the summer reading challenge, or to get your child involved, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries or pop into your local library.

Quiz League testers

HERE are this week's specials:

1. Which Austrian composer's last 12 symphonies are known collectively as the 'London Symphonies'?
2. Which song by U2 was a tribute to the great Billie Holiday?
3. Charlie Aitken made a record 650 league appearances for which current Premiership side

between 1959 and 1976?
4. Which strait separates Cape York peninsula of Australia from the island of New Guinea?

A RUDGE
(for Quiz League!)

4. Torres Strait.
3. Aston Villa.
2. Angel of Harlem.
1. Hagen.

Children of foster carers praised for their 'vital role'



ABOVE: Sons and daughters receiving their certificates.

THE important role that the young sons and daughters of local foster carers can play in helping fostered children to feel welcome was marked when Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Fostering Network Wales organised a storytelling day at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Children of foster carers aged between five and nine were treated to storytelling with Steve Killick, games, crafts, a picnic, and awarded certificates for helping fostered chil-

dren to feel part of the family.

Plans are in place for developing a regular support group for the young children, and the event was also designed to provide an opportunity for them to get to know each other.

COUN Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The sons and daughters of our carers play a vital role in providing successful foster placements, so it's important to celebrate their role and provide them with suitable support."

"Being part of a foster family has a significant impact on the whole household as they cope with the changes and challenges of welcoming foster children in the home."

"I'd urge anyone who is thinking about fostering, but who may be worried about how it will affect their family, to get in touch with the fostering team and learn more about the support that we offer for the whole household."

YOUNG JACK'S STORY PROMPTS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR BOBATH CHILDREN'S CHARITY

STAFF from recruitment company, Smart Solutions, have picked up their paddles and canoed 20 miles to raise almost £5,000 for the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

Twenty-three members of staff from the recruitment company, which has an office on Wyndham Street in Bridgend, tackled the Brecon and Monmouth Canal to canoe a 2-mile stretch, while a further 11 donned their walking boots to trek 10 miles, completing the route on foot.

Despite a wobbly start that saw some of the team take an unexpected summer-dip, all of the canoeists and walkers made it over the line, raising an impressive £4,825.

Smart Solutions chief executive, Nathan Bowles, said:

"Canoeing 20 miles is no mean feat and I am really proud of the team who all made it over the finish line, despite a few of us who struggled to stay upright in the beginning!"

"It was a great day out and helped to bring the team, who are based across south Wales, together to raise money for a fantastic cause, and I would like to say thank you and well done to all canoeists and walkers who took part."

The company decided to raise money for the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales after seeing the support and treatment that the charity provided to team member Deb Vincent and her two-year-old son, Jack.

Jack contracted meningitis when he was just four weeks old and suffered a series of mini strokes, resulting in brain damage leading to a diagnosis of Athetoid Cerebral Palsy.

When Jack was seven months old his family was referred to the Bobath by their consultant paediatrician and the charity provided specialist physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy, to help Jack improve his core strength and oral skills.

It has agreed to fund treatment for Jack and already his parents have seen improvements. Jack is now able to sit unaided for a few seconds and be fed by hand, rather than through a tube.

As a result of the support that Bobath has given to Deb, Smart Solutions Recruitment has nominated it as their charity of the year and has committed to raising £21,000 for the cause over the next 12 months.

Mr Bowles said: "We have been genuinely touched by the generous, life-changing support that the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales has shown

to Deb, Jack and the whole family, and we really wanted to do what we could to support the charity."

"This year, Smart Solutions turns five years old, while Bobath is celebrating its 21st anniversary. We have committed to spend our fifth year raising £21,000 for the charity to help support the good work they do for so many children."

"This is the first in a long line of fundraising initiatives that we'll be rolling out over the coming year, and we're already busy planning our next event, which will be a themed fundraising dinner in Cardiff on November 23."

The Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales provides specialist therapy to children across Wales who have cerebral palsy.

It is made up of three disciplines, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy, and aims to give each child the skills to explore the world, communicate their needs and participate as much as possible in all aspects of their lives.

The charity treats more than 450 children in Wales each year and needs to raise over £1m every year to make this possible.

Paralympian Simon urges families to 'GET GOING' this summer!

PORTHCAWL'S Paralympic medal-winning cyclist, Simon Richardson MBE, is urging families to take up the challenge of the Welsh Government's Change4Life campaign – to get children off the sofa and into action during the school summer holidays.



ABOVE: Simon Richardson

Voicing his support for the campaign, the Beijing record breaker has emphasised the importance of being active as a child, and is encouraging families to get out and about this summer.

The 46-year-old is supporting the Welsh Government's Change4Life campaign, entitled 'Get Going', which provides new cost-effective ideas to help families be more energetic over the coming weeks. These ideas have just been posted on the campaign website.

Simon, who won two golds and one silver medal at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008, said: "Getting outside and being active has

always been a part of my life, both before and after my car accident. I've not let anything hold me back and I know from experience that getting exercise of any kind in the fresh air is so rewarding for the mind and body."

"I really recommend making the most of the summer to get active as a family. It really doesn't matter what you do – as long as it gets the heart pumping, that's what counts."

'Get Going' is promoting simple, low-cost or no-cost, informal activities and games designed to help children achieve a target of 60 active minutes a day, and parents 150 minutes a week.

The initiative comes against the background of newly released figures from the Public Health Wales National child measurement programme showing that, in Wales, 28 per cent of four and five year olds had an unhealthy body mass index (BMI), with 12.5 per cent falling into the 'obese category'.

The Welsh Government aims to inspire both children and adults to change their behaviour and lead a more active life. Get Going, which is part of the wider Change4Life Wales campaign to improve the health of the nation, invites people to sign up online at www.change4life.wales.org.uk and discover low-cost ways of staying active this summer.

School set to launch a food 'revolution'

LAST month, saw the beginning of a food revolution at Llanfair school, where work began on four raised beds, in a bid to encourage the local community to grow their own produce.

Sarah Trigg, Llanfair school garden co-ordinator, said: "The main part of the project is getting the community involved in growing their own produce and using our lovely countryside, rather than just having a field used only by the school."

"The school is the heart of the community, because we haven't got a local pub or a community hall in St Mary Church."

The school hopes to start planting vegetables when term starts in September.

Helping to build the boxes alongside school governors were volunteers from both Llanfair and St Mary Church.

Newly-formed Players perform Hamlet for St John's House Trust



Bringing Elsinore to Newcastle Hill.



A fundraising first performance of Hamlet for St John's House Trust, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, was held at historic Newcastle on Saturday evening by the newly-formed Theatre Group, St John's House Players.

"Thanks to all who supported this event and made it a huge success; and special thanks to Ella Riley's Sweetshop and Felicity's on Nolton Street, who promoted and sold tickets for the event," a spokeswoman said.



ABOVE: Hamlet (Lewis Coster) with Horatio (Morgan Neagle). (No prizes for remembering Hamlet's next line!)



Picture by Laurie Golden

Stagecoach Theatre Arts celebrates silver anniversary

IN celebration of Stagecoach's 25th anniversary, 220 students from Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge performed a spectacular evening of musical theatre to a packed house at Barry Memorial Theatre.

The young performers, aged six to 19 years, thrilled and impressed with wonderful song and

dance routines, from the 'silver screen' to 'modern day', the 'West End' to 'Broadway' - including 'Wicked', 'Billy Elliot', 'A Chorus Line', 'Hairspray', 'Rock of Ages', 'Singing in the Rain', and 'Beauty & The Beast'.

The finale featured all performers on-stage for an unforgettable medley from the musical 'Matilda', which brought rapturous applause and a well-deserved standing ovation.

Bridgend Royal Marine hosts Prince Harry at naval opening ceremony



Prince Harry takes the salute in Plymouth.

A ROYAL Marine corporal from Bridgend had the "unique opportunity" of hosting Prince Harry at the opening of a new Royal Navy centre of excellence in Plymouth.

Corporal Nick Garn (38) said it was an honour for his unit at the launch of Royal Marines Tamar at HM Naval Base, Devonport, on Friday, August 2.

The royal guest, in his role as Commodore-in-Chief Small Ships and Diving, attended the VIP event at RM Tamar, which is the new centre of operational and training units for the Royal Marines' landing and raiding craft.

To mark the occasion, Prince Harry spent two hours at the £30m complex, inspecting the Royal Marines and Royal Navy personnel on parade, before performing the honour of cere-

monially opening Tamar and unveiling a plaque.

Cpl Garn, who attended Brynteg Comprehensive School, is a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Marines.

He said: "Our new facility here in Plymouth is a fantastic Royal Navy asset. The Navy has brought together different elements of its amphibious capability and made it easier for all parts to work together."

"Having Prince Harry here to open RM Tamar was a real honour. After all the work that has gone into it we could not have asked for a better guest on the day. He is someone who gets behind the work that we do and is always interested."

Around 250 Royal Marines and Royal Navy personnel are based at Tamar, which comprises the headquarters of 1 Assault Group Royal Marines.



Corporal Nick Garn.

SUMMER FETE IN MAESTEG

BRYN Celyn Care Home, Maesteg, is hosting a summer fete on Saturday, August 17, from 11am, with a bouncy slide, bungee run and chicken derby.

A beer tent will be available for the adults, courtesy of the landlord from the Red Cow. Entertainment will be provided by 'Contagious' dance troupe and there will be a wide variety of food, including burgers cooked on the barbecue.

For more information, telephone 01656 733901.

PORTHCAWL ROBBERY: police appeal

DETECTIVES investigating a robbery at a jeweller's shop on John Street, Porthcawl at around 10.10am on August 1, have recovered clothing worn by suspects, as well as some of the stolen items.

They were recovered from gardens at the rear of Gordon Road and Highfield Avenue and included a skull cap and spectacles worn by the suspects.

Officers also want to trace the occupants of two vehicles which were parked in a lay-by on Jubilee Gardens near Porthcawl cemetery the night before the robbery (Tuesday, July 30).

One was a white Volkswagen T5 Transport with silver chrome on the front and tinted rear windows. The other was a grey Volkswagen LT35 van. Both had Lithuanian number plates, bearing the country code "LT" and the European flag on the number plates.

Three men entered the jewellers' shop and sprayed the two staff members with an unknown substance, before binding them with tape and stealing a large quantity of jewellery, police reported.

Anyone with information, is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130237419.

STOP PRESS:

As The GEM went to press, South Wales Police announced that a 27-year-old Lithuanian national from the Essex area had been arrested. Police had also recovered a Volkswagen Transporter vehicle, registration FTZ449.

Local lifeguard wins scholarship

A YOUNG architect from Ogmorbey-Sea has been awarded a national architecture scholarship of £1,500.

Joe Travers-Jones (20) beat off competition from six other young architects from across Wales, to receive the National Eisteddfod for Wales Architecture Scholarship, which is supported by the Design Commission for Wales.

This recognises the design achievements of talented young architects aged 25 or under, and aims to further their understanding of creative architecture.

Mr Travers-Jones, who works as an RNLI lifeguard in the Vale of Glamorgan alongside his studies at University College London's Bartlett School of Architecture, won the award for his design project The Blue Lagoon, which proposed turning a former industrial slate quarry in Pembrokeshire into a thermal spa with saltwater pools and seaweed baths.

The selectors for the

scholarship were Dan Benham of Loyn & Co Architects and Roger Connah of Carleton University, Ottawa.

Roger Connah said: "Joe's submission, The Blue Lagoon, clearly stood out from the rest. There was a knowing depth of analysis throughout his work, showing graphic literacy and the benefits of a hybrid ecological approach, all linked by an impressive conceptual strength."

Carole-Anne Davies, chief executive of the Design Commission for Wales, added: "Nurturing young, creative talent is vital to the future of architecture in Wales and we are delighted to award this scholarship to Joe."

Joe said: "I was really happy, surprised and honoured to have been given this award."

"My ultimate goal is to become a practising architect in Wales, so to be recognised at such a high level is a real sense of achievement."

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 14 August 2013

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  Refuge Housing Association
  Newydd Housing Association
  United World
  Vale and Tŷfedd Housing Association



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Newydd Housing Association
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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 • Double glazing
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 • Double glazing
 • Central heating
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 • Central heating
 • Communal gardens
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 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Gardens
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 • Gardens
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 • Lift available
 • Double glazing
 • Gas central heating
 • Parking
 Rent £86.51 per week including service charges

NEW DEVELOPMENT AT MERTHYR STREET, BARRY

Newydd Housing Association are asking for expressions of interest for this new development.

These properties were advertised in the previous advert but we are asking for further interest from applicants for the two bedroom properties on the first and second floor.

Previous applicants who have already expressed an interest need not reapply as applications are currently being considered.

Priority will be given to existing social housing tenants wishing to downsize, who have an excellent tenancy history. Interest will be considered from applicants with local work and/or life connections.

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references and carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this new development.

**TREBEFERAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR**

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 • Gardens
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Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

Would you like to discuss the options available to you?

If so, call our Money Advice Line on 01446 709312 for constructive, impartial advice. This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



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NEW



Radnor Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major
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£190,000 E41

NEW



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Chris Davies



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Sought After Location

£220,000 D65



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E492 - £525 pcm
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Three Bedrooms, Two Receptions, Enclosed garden

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Castle Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
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Starling Road, St Athan
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Trebeferad, Boverton
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Landscaped Rear
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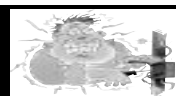
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00615/FUL
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey rear outbuilding with accommodation to first floor and a rear extension to house 18, Westgate, Cowbridge
 Location:/Lleoliad: Cowbridge
 Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00652/FUL
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing toilets and cold store (not Listed). Extension of existing pub. Re-build of existing outbuildings to provide residential accommodation and shop
 Location:/Lleoliad: The Plough and Harrow, Monknash
 Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Monknash

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00659/ADV
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Permanent For Sale/To Rent advertisement board
 Location:/Lleoliad: Penarth House, 26-28, Stanwell Road, Penarth
 Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00609/LBC
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Alteration to insert a spiral stair to provide access from the ground floor to first floor to link the cafe at the seaward end of the building
 Location:/Lleoliad: Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth
 Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00643/LBC
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair works to porch
 Location:/Lleoliad: Barons Court, Penarth Road, Penarth
 Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00634/OUT
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwellings with revised vehicular access
 Location:/Lleoliad: Land at 74, Murch Road, Dinas Powys
 Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Affecting Nos. 1-6 Little Orchard, Dinas Powys, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00630/OUT
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development (outline)
 Location:/Lleoliad: Hayes Road, Sully

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00632/FUL
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of 24 residential units and associated works
 Location:/Lleoliad: Site of former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00633/FUL
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of a single wind turbine, with maximum blade to height of 77 metres, along with accompanying access track, crane hardstanding, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound.
 Location:/Lleoliad: Hill House Farm, St. Marys Hill, Bridgend

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00630/OUT
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development (outline)
 Location:/Lleoliad: Hayes Road, Sully

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwry'o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00630/OUT
 Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development (outline)
 Location:/Lleoliad: Hayes Road, Sully

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 8 August, 2013

M. Goldsworthy
 Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
 Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Situations Vacant

Announcements

Articles For Sale

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Wales Probation

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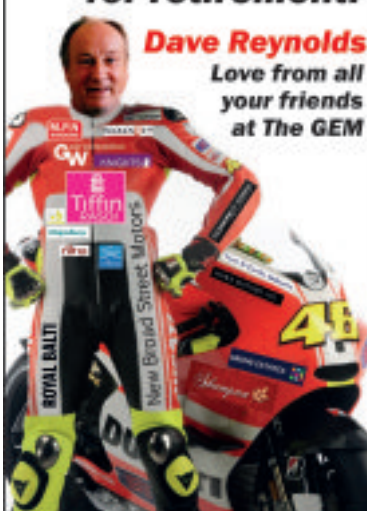
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Birthdays

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DAVID REYNOLDS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
11th August 2013
Love from all your friends at The GEM

Happy 70th Birthday

Ann Driver
on 12 August 2013

With love from all the family xxx



Congratulations

SINGLETON Charlotte

Congratulations (Well done)

BSc (Hons)
Criminology,
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Love Dad and Ali Singleton,
Nan & uncle Stuart



CONGRATULATIONS ERIN

on getting into the Welsh Athletic Squad and competing for Wales in the Celtic Cup 2013 in Colwyn Bay.

Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Alisha
and all the family xxx



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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

From the 2nd of August 2013 we, The Wine Cellar, Dinas Powis Limited, do hereby give notice of application to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority for a new premises licence at the address:

The Wine Cellar,
17 Station Road,
Dinas Powis, CF64 4DE,
this is to include:

Retail Sale of Alcohol
Mon, Thurs - 10.00 - 23.00
Fri and Sat - 10.00 - 24.00
Sun - 10.00 - 22.30

Regulated Entertainment:
Mon, Sat - 20.00 - 23.00
Sun - 20.00 - 22.30

Opening Hours:
Mon, Thurs - 10.00 - 23.30
Fri and Sat - 10.00 - 00.30
Sun - 10.00 - 23.00

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Department, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU no later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representation received after this date will not be considered.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Family Notices

BOETTJER Jurgan

Peacefully, after a short illness bravely borne, Jurgan, loving husband of Bev, much loved father and grandfather. Will be sadly missed by all.

Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 9th August at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be given to Macmillan Cancer Support, P.O. Box 355, Bridgend, CF31 9NR.

WILLIAMS Lucy Lorraine
(Known as Lorraine)

Suddenly on 23rd July 2013, aged 85 years. Beloved mother to Cheryl & Karen, mother in law to John, cherished nan to Ian, Steven, David and Vicky, and great nan to six great grandchildren, sister to Thelma & Billy. Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Sons Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in the chapel on Tuesday 13th August 2013 at 10.15am followed by a committal service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 11.15am. Family flowers only please. Donations to the Paget Association may be sent to 323 Manchester Road, Walkden Worsley, Manchester M28 3HH.

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RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS NIPPERS' FOURTH PLACE IN THE WELSH CHAMPIONSHIPS



WELL done to the Nippers' team from Rhose Lifeguards, who recently competed at the Welsh Championships held in Tenby, west Wales.

The two-day event, comprising beach and sea races, was particularly enjoyable, due to the excellent weather over the whole weekend, and the team put in another great effort to finish fourth overall, with 11 teams competing.

Liz Wong, Nipper co-ordinator and her team of coaches and helpers, congratulated all of the youngsters who took part in the competition, especially those who competed in every individual event and the relay and Super Nipper races – "a great effort by all, well done!"

Special congratulations also go to Evie Wong, who won all of her individual events – an excellent achievement. Well done Evie!

With many families staying in Tenby for the weekend, and with the fine weather, the event also proved to be a great social get-together for the lifeguards' club, with many families enjoying the 'after-competition' meal and drinks at the local pub.

Rhose Lifeguards would like to thank everyone involved in the competition, especially the Nippers' team, for a very enjoyable weekend.

Individual medals winners: Lena Davies – bronze Surf Wade, Moli Lyons – silver Beach Run, Evie Wong – gold Sprint, gold Beach Run, Emily Parker – bronze Surf Wade, Samuel Griffin – gold Beach Run, Cian Davies – bronze Surf Swim, Morgan Jenkins – bronze Sprint, Brooke Peterson – bronze Super Nipper, silver Sprint, Oliver Wong – gold Surf Swim, gold Board Race, silver Super Nipper, Jessica Wadey – silver Board Race, gold Super Nipper, gold Sprint, gold Beach Run, Ellie Peterson – silver Sprint, Tomos Wilshaw – silver Sprint, Alfie Davies – gold Beach Run; many more medals were won in the pairs and relay events.

Nippers' team: Elena Gibson, Gwenno Goode, Lena Davies, Cai Beasley, Benedict Griffin, Isabella David, Ella Bulmer, Yasmin Davies, Moli Lyons, Evie Wong, Joel Williams, Louie Gwatkin, Emily Parker, Kiera Harris, Lisa Grace, Will Odgers, Sam Jenkins, Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks, Cian Davies, Morgan Jenkins, Taran Downton, Samuel Griffin, Ethan Wall, Helen Jenkins, Oliver Wong, Jessica Wadey, Emily Price, Ellie Peterson, Dyfan Goode, Alfie Davies, Tomos Wilshaw, Jason Grice.



Sully amateur golfer through to UK final



ABOVE: the regional final winners, Wayne Blatchford (on right) and Stuart Hale.

Barry RFC Patrons' night off

IT is with regret that due a poor response for our Patrons Barbecue, the event has been cancelled.

We apologise to those that had booked to attend; however, the planned viewing of the Wall of Memory between 2pm and 5pm on August 17 will still take place as arranged and we look forward to seeing you.

AJ

DARTS DATE

THIS Friday (August 9), an inter league darts match will take place at the Barry Football Club.

A team representing the Barry Darts League, will take on a representative side from the Caldicot and Magor Darts League.

The match, which will consist of 11 singles games and two games of doubles, will begin at approximately 8pm. With the away side bringing a strong set of supporters, we would encourage people to come along and support the Barry team.

RL

W A Y N E Blatchford, from Sully has claimed a place in the Audi quattro Cup UK final golf tournament in September.

Blatchford and partner Stuart Hale (Bristol) narrowly won a regional final at the St Pierre Golf Club, Chepstow, Wales, on August 1.

They triumphed with a score of 43 points in the Stableford rules matches.

Eighteen 'pairs' of amateur golfers contested the 18-hole competition, having earned a regional final place by means of a top placing in one of almost 50 qualifying tournaments staged since April.

RESULTS

1st, Stuart Hale/Wayne Blatchford, 43pts;

2nd, Cliff Denton, from Caversham near Reading/Terry Guildford, Cheltenham, 42pts.

The top-two 'pairs' from this event (listed above), plus seven other regional final events, will contest the Audi quattro Cup UK final at Bowood Golf and Country Club near Calne, Wiltshire (Sep 5).

The top-two 'pairs' from the UK final will represent Great Britain in the Audi quattro Cup World Final staged at the Trump National Golf Club, Los Angeles (Oct 7 - 11).

The Audi quattro Cup, being staged for the 23rd year, is the world's largest amateur golf competition, with almost 80,000 players from over 50 countries competing for a place in the week-long World Final.

Son beats mum!

IN the BangorBet Handicap Chase, worth £3,899 to the winner at Bangor-on-Dee last Friday, Wester Ross, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, finished five lengths ahead of Maisy Missil, which is owned and trained by Evan's mother, Mary Evans in Pembrokeshire.

The top weighted Wester Ross was ridden by Adam Wedge, a 3lb claiming jockey, and Maisy Missil, a winner of her previous start, was partnered by Paul Moloney.

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2011 11 Reg	MINI Cooper Convertible Auto Chili Red, Black Cloth	8k	£12,850
2011 11 Reg	MINI Cooper Convertible Interchange Yellow, Black 1/2 Leather, 17" Black Star Alloys	30k	£13,450
2010 60 Reg	MINI Cooper Convertible Pepper White, Beige Leather, CHILI Pack	16k	£13,850
2012 12 Reg	MINI Cooper Hatch White Silver, Black Lounge Leather, Sat Nav, CHILI Pack	15k	£14,450
2011 61 Reg	MINI Cooper SD Hatch Pepper White, Black 1/2 Leather, Xenon Headlights, CHILI Pack	26k	£15,850
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Munro Cup triumph

Llantwit Major men's bowls team had another good result in the Munro Cup on Wednesday with a 90-51 win at Murch.

Steve Booker's rink took the lead after two ends with two scores of four shots keeping them well ahead throughout the game to win by nine shots.

Richard George's rink led from the start, being 12 shots up before Murch went on the scoreboard; Llantwit were then held on the score of 18 for six ends before scoring again to notch up a 14 shot win.

Danny Ahearn's rink started slowly finding it difficult to adapt to the slow green and were six down after five ends; they pulled back to take the lead on the ninth end which they held until the final two ends, when they conceded eight shots to lose by three shots.

Graham Jones' rink were behind for six ends before going on to short jacks to counteract the heavy green. This was to Llantwit's liking scoring two ends of five and two ends of four to win the match convincingly by 19 shots.

LADY BOWLERS
Firstly, an apology to

the ladies teams - last week's report said we had lost against Bridgend Municipal B.C, but in fact we did win 6 out of the 10 points available.

On Tuesday, we travelled to Cowbridge B.C for a Cowbridge Challenge Shield Match. We don't expect to win at Cowbridge as they have an artificial rink, which we are not

used to and this match was no different we lost on all rinks with no points gained.

The rinks were Kay Johns, Lyn Oatley, Margaret Morgan and Peggy Pike 10-19; Liz Crouch, Margaret Horgan, Etta Gray and Julie Molloy 8-20; Edna Hardie, Marian Lewis and Ann Mutlow 12-14.

On Thursday, we welcomed Cowbridge

B.C. to Llantwit for a league match and we won on all rinks, gaining the full 10 points.

The rinks were Edna Hardie, Pat Cook, Etta Gray and Carol Willmot 35-10; Liz Crouch, Barbara Lewis, Julie Molloy and Marian Lewis 30-8; Kay Johns, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan 33-0.

KJ

SUPER SENIORS ENJOY THE SUN!

THE fourth annual super senior competition at Cottrell Park held on July 22 was won by Dai Rees with 37 points.

The competition is open to all male members of the club who are 70 years of age or older. In magnificent weather, 23 players enjoyed the Mackintosh course, which was in great condition.

Runner-up was Donald Williams with 36 points, third was Peter Owen, also with 36 points.

Aubrey Bowen had the most (seven) three and four points and Ian Cunningham won nearest the pin in two strokes on the 14th hole.

Last year's winner, Chris Stanlake, and



David Stephenson both had a two.

After the competition, the players enjoyed a convivial meal and prize presentation.

John McGlyne, who organized the competition, expressed pleasure at the number of people

who participated, and delight that the weather this year was very much better than last year's deluge!

Pictured above: Dai Rees (on left) receives the claret jug from last year's winner, Chris Stanlake. JM

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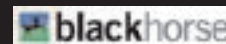
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GEM sport

Cavs take another step to promotion

THE Llantwit Major Cavaliers 1st XI took another big step towards automatic promotion to Division 3 of the SWCA on Saturday afternoon with a commanding performance against struggling Kidwelly Town.

Winning the toss, Cavs captain James Snelson elected to bowl first on a well prepared strip. His decision was immediately justified as the Cavalier bowlers made early inroads into the Kidwelly batting lineup. Sam Pickford (7-2-10-2) and Gareth Hughes (7-1-27-2) each picked up two wickets as Kidwelly fell to 2-4.

L Brown (29) was the only Kidwelly batsman to offer any real resistance and was the only batsman to get above 20 as James Snelson (7-2-17-4) and Ben Jenkins (6-1-0-26-2) completed the innings in style with

the last 4 wickets falling in 5 balls for 0 runs.

With Kidwelly finishing on 81 all out from 27.1 overs, tea was declined and the Cavs batsmen immediately went about chasing the total down.

Despite Harry Withers (8) falling in the first over and Snelson (7) being run out in very unfortunate circumstances at the non-strikers end, Julian Griffiths (30) and Lewis Collins (22) batted very well to get the Cavs near to victory.

Sam Pickford (2*) and club chairman Neal Pritchard (2*) earned the Cavs a thoroughly deserved win in the 20th over.

The win, which sees the Cavs gain 26 points, means they are second in the league table and 12 points clear of third placed Baglan. The Cavs 1st XI travel away this Saturday to face Kidwelly for the fourth and final time this season.

BJ

The Llantwit Major Cavaliers 2nd XI travelled to Kidwelly for the third clash of the season between the two teams.

The Cavs day got off to sluggish start with the journey to Kidwelly taking three hours due to closure of the M4 at Port Talbot.

The Cavs conceded the toss in accordance with league rules and played a 30 over game, with it starting at 2:45pm, going on to make 95 for 5 off their allocated overs with Mark Coldwell scoring 57 not out.

For Kidwelly, R Davies (8-1-22-3) had the best bowling figures backed up by the rest of the attack, who all bowled a good line and length.

Kidwelly won the game in the 21st over, seen home by Ben Pritchard (21 not out), as they reached 96 for 4, with Nasir Shaikh top scoring with 43 before being caught and

bowled by Phil Harris (1 for 24).

Mark Coldwell with 2 wickets for 29 was the most successful Cavs bowler courtesy of two fines catches; the first by 15 year old Luke Allison was one of the catches of the season as he caught the ball as it flew behind, with the other catch being well taken during a heavy rain shower.

The two teams draw swords again this week at Windmill Lane as they play their fourth and final clash of the season.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors: Simons Plaice, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiropodist Roz Couzens, Accesstraining.co.uk, Red Dragon Computers, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine and Nathaniel for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

DMC

Ladies captain's day celebrated at RAF St Athan



Pat Harris.



ABOVE: Lady captain Ros Martin-Jones and Jenny Young.

RECENTLY the female golfers converged on RAF St Athan Golf Club to support Ros Martin-Jones at her lady captain's day.

Ros was disappointed not to be playing herself but savoured every moment of her special day; presenting everyone with a small gift, cajoling her volunteers and smiling at the camera on numerous occasions before gratefully receiving a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the club captain Hugh Williams.

There were plenty of giggles as the ladies arrived at the club to find a golf buggy bedecked with balloons and flowers – they soon learnt that this was Jenny Young's mode of transport for the day.

Jenny is this year's ladies vice-captain and unfortunately illness prevented her from competing in the competition, but she certainly was a winner in the ladies' eyes; zig-zagging around the course at speed throughout the day, providing much needed refreshments. Well done Jenny, all the members wish you a speedy recovery.

The format for the golf was an individual stroke play competition with various prizes to be awarded for longest drives, nearest the pins, chipping and putting.

Michelle Bligh scored a nett 69 but it was Pat Harris who had the winning score with a magnificent 68 nett resulting in a handicap reduction and the lady captain's prize.

It is traditional not to allow any of the golfers the chance of winning more than one of the major prizes, so with the aforementioned ladies out of the equation, the best gross silver divi-

sion went to Erin Allison, with Gill Jones winning the bronze division.

The fun element of the day saw Mo Garrett, Lesley Hurry and Liz Thomas take a prize in the chipping competition. Lesley being lucky enough to also take one of the two hidden holes and Ann Johnson taking the other.

There were two putting competitions, the first on the practice area which John Davies had set up in such a way that ensured the majority of the ladies would 'go out of bounds' and the second was the number of putts recorded on the course; Jayne Williams and Sandra Goodchap respectively were the winners.

The ball had to remain on the fairway for the longest drive on the 10th hole and this secured the win by Michelle Bligh. It was a very surprised Jackie Hawkins that won nearest the pin; Jackie will be the first to admit that it was not the best, nor prettiest of shots!

At the evening presentation, Steve Kenyon greeted the ladies with a glass of punch before they sat down to enjoy a sumptuous buffet provided by club caterer Leanne and her dedicated team.

The ladies captain recalled some memorable moments from the year and thanked everyone for their continued support, and especially for making her lady captain's day so special.

The ladies of RAF St Athan Golf Club play their main competitions on Saturdays throughout the year and always extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join their section; for further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM

Farmers enjoy a day in the Valley

PONTARDARDA WE Golf Club, situated in the upper Swansea valley, proved an ideal location for the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, sponsored by the Maesglas Veterinary Group, and it attracted 32 competitors.

They enjoyed magnificent panoramic views of the Brecon Beacons, Black Mountains, Mumbles Head and



LEFT: Winning golfers with sponsor Mike King on the right.

Swansea Bay which can be viewed from the 16th tee known locally as 'The Pulpit'.

It is not surprising that visitors to this well-maintained course often remark that it is a hidden gem where a warm welcome is always guaranteed.

At the conclusion of a most enjoyable day's golf played on a course in excellent condition, Godfrey Lewis and Griff Morgan were declared the winners with a very impressive 39 stableford points.

Sponsors' representative Mike King, now enjoying his retirement and partnered with Glyn Watts-Jones, were runners up with 36 points and society treasurer Reg Davies and his partner Aubrey Bowen third with

35 points. In fourth place and making a rare appearance in the winners' enclosure was rapidly improving David Harris and his partner Mike Lee who scored 34 points.

The top score of the day however was recorded in the guest section by John Thomas, assisted by Rhydian Harris, who returned a very impressive 40 points with Charlie Tantrum and Martyn Edwards runners up with quite a few points less!

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Trevor Wooding, Clive Thomas, and David Williams. Griff Morgan completed a very suc-

cessful day by winning the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored longest drive prize and guest John Thomas ended his day on a high when he collected the Premier Turf Ltd sponsored bottle of whisky, when correctly guessing 48 balls would fail to make the journey home. This also raised £75 for the registered charity, amserjustintime.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29, with a visit to the highly-rated Ross on Wye Golf Club that the society has not played since 1988.

Llantwit Major-based estate agent Anthony Brown Ltd will sponsor this competition.

Nipper Jewell Knock out competition, semi-final draw: Trevor Wooding v Geraint Davies; Glyn Watts-Jones v Julian Kelly - matches to be played by Thursday, August 29.

TMC

Local course warms up for Open

FOLLOWING Mark Wiebe's victory in this year's Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex at Royal Birkdale, the baton has now been passed to Royal Porthcawl as Wales prepares to host its first major championship in 2014.

The famous links course will become the 12th different venue to host a Senior Open Championship, when it stages the 28th edition from July 24 - 27, 2014.

Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, executive director - championships, at The R&A, said: "After the success of this year's Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex at Royal Birkdale, we are now all looking forward to visiting Wales for the first time when Royal Porthcawl hosts the 2014 edition. Royal Porthcawl is another magnificent links venue and one of all the players will relish playing next year."

For more information on tickets visit www.senioropengolf.com or call 0800 0232557.

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